

**4 Wick Road,  
Ewenny, CF35 5BL  
Tel. 01656 658388**



## READERS' LETTERS

**IMPORTANT!** We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail.

**LETTERS AND EMAILS MUST INCLUDE FULL ADDRESS AND A CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER. AN EMAIL ADDRESS ALONE IS NOT SUFFICIENT!**

We will (in certain circumstances) protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, Don John, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7E OR email [gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk](mailto:gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk)

## American 'friend' who rallied to our wartime seamen

**I**N our town of Barry, we have a magnificent, restored Merchant Navy war memorial outside the Civic Offices.

Many tragedies – sometimes multiple – from the same family – are recorded there.

Before they met their terrible end, did any of those men (I believe they are all men) know of Lady Malcolm Douglas-Hamilton?

Many of those who survived the Atlantic crossings in convoy or otherwise, and the Murmansk run, may

well recall her.

She died on January 14, aged 103, but during World War Two, even though American, she organised the knitting of warm sea boot socks, initially for the Royal Navy, which blossomed into 900,000 knitters and support staff in the United States. Into every garment was sown "From your American friends".

The campaign expanded into fresh ideas, such as sending warm clothing for troops rescued at Dunkirk, and first aid supplies for victims of German bombing.

including those in south Wales.

On 71 ships – only two were sunk by U-boats – she sent across the 'Pond' 40,000 sleeveless sweaters; 10,000 sweaters with sleeves; 30,000 scarves; 20,000 pairs of mittens; 18,000 pairs of sea boot socks etc, as well as ambulances, first aid kits, X-ray machines, children's overcoats.

If I continue I will fill a whole GEM page!

She even involved Buckingham Palace and the Queen Mother in fundraising support!

Eventually, after an adventurous love life, she married Wing Commander Lord Malcolm Avondale Douglas-Hamilton, OBE, DFC, the Conservative MP for Inverness and brother of the Duke of Hamilton – to whom Rudolph Hess flew, in his vain attempt to seek an armistice and anti-Communist alliance with Britain.

What a life! Many Barry Merchant Navy and Royal Navy sailors/seamen and their families will have benefited from her energy and organising skills – when the United States was not even in the war itself.

She needs to be remembered here in the Vale of Glamorgan and elsewhere wherever Merchant and Royal Navy seafarers lived. Christopher Short, Barry

brothers but were actually Evan James and his son James James. Evan James wrote the words and his son James, a harpist, composed the music.

Although not born in Pontypridd, nevertheless, Evan and his son James are remembered in Ynysyngarad Memorial Park, Pontypridd, where there is a fine memorial by Sir William Gascoigne John.

David Rees, Boverton.  
*GEM note: Oops! Well spotted.*

## Anthem composers

**W**ITH reference to the article

'Adam's starter for ten...' in The GEM on January 31, you printed a question from University Challenge concerning a song written by two brothers from Pontypridd.

The answer given was the Welsh national anthem, Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau. I wonder if anyone else has spotted the error. They were not

## Food hygiene: 'publish ratings'

**I**WRITE in respect of the Welsh Government's decision to make it the law to publish hygiene ratings for establishments serving food to the public.

Although we now have to wait for this law to be passed by the British Parliament and to be given royal assent, we at least see an example of good practice being brought forward by the legislators in Cardiff Bay.

I am sure that many others will welcome this initiative, which will make it compulsory for all hygiene ratings to be displayed.

At the moment, those with poor ratings make no effort to make the public aware of their failings.

Although this information is available on the internet, I feel that members of the public are putting their health at risk by eating at these establishments.

I look forward to this information coming into the public domain at the earliest moment in time. Mr S Thomas,

## What is a fair (fuel) profit margin?

**R**ECENTLY, the price of unleaded petrol being sold at different supermarkets (who sell more than a million litres a day, at the same time and in the same geographical area) has varied by as much as 4p per litre.

These facts are displayed on large signs at every garage, for the public to be certain about.

It casts doubt on the supermarkets' claim to be competitive.

If we include all garages in a given area, at a given time, the variation has risen as much as by 10p per litre, partly due, no doubt, to the bulk-buying discounts which supermarkets

enjoy. If we exclude the matter and level of tax, which is a quite separate consideration of Government policy, these different levels of price to the consumer represent a very substantial percentage of the wholesale price paid by the garage to the oil companies.

But it is even more alarming when a public body, the Office of Fair Trading, carries out an investigation into matters arithmetical, displayed to the whole nation on large electrically-lit signs, and comes to a conclusion which is in clear defiance of the indisputable facts – for reasons which we can only guess at.

It appears that we need a public investigator to investigate public bodies. Neville Westerman, Brynna.

## Legion branch says 'thank you'

**O**N behalf of all members of the

Bridgend branch of the Royal British Legion, we would like to say a very big thank you for your support of the Poppy Appeal which so far has raised £33,800.

Exceptional praise goes to all collectors who helped to man the static points; also thanks to Mr JH Aspee, Holiday Shop in the Rhif

Centre, Mr Morris, the butcher, and many more for their donations which helped us to this magnificent amount.

Can I please ask those who have not sent a donation for their wreaths to do so as soon as possible?

Would those who wish to help out with this year's Poppy Appeal please give me a ring on 01656 669988, or email me at [arandreekie03@gmail.com](mailto:arandreekie03@gmail.com) to let me know when you are available. Andy Reekie (Branch secretary)

## Cardiff Airport a waste of money?

**W**ITH regard to L Pinson's letter concerning Cardiff Airport, I have to say I agree with his comments.

However, my argument is not about differences between Cardiff Airport and Bristol Airport; it is merely down to the enormous cost of purchasing and servicing the airport.

The arguments about the distances to travel from these airports to

various parts of the world don't come into it.

If you wanted to travel to America or Australia, you would probably have to travel to Heathrow or Gatwick, so no arguments there.

However, at the present moment in time, we cannot afford to spend £80 million on this venture. Cardiff council has just announced a £22 million cut in its budget, plus over 300 job losses.

This is also partly due to Carwyn Jones' Welsh Government cuts, to the settlement grants it gave the council. So how on earth can we justify spending our money on this airport, which is in my opinion, reckless?

How would anyone feel after losing their jobs if they find out that their Welsh Government has spent all this money on a defunct airport, while at the same time they have lost their jobs due to cuts.

It is senseless, and the idea should be shredded without delay. D J Radford,

## Council's new video link service for deaf

**RESIDENTS** of Bridgend county borough who are deaf or hard of hearing, can now contact BCBC through its website, using a new SignVideo service.

By clicking on the SignVideo link, they can make a video call from the comfort of their own home or place of work and are connected directly to the telephone contact centre via a SignVideo interpreter, a spokeswoman explained.

"This service is also available for customers visiting Civic Offices.

BCBC customer service advisors can connect to the SignVideo service and use a headset to talk to the interpreter, who will then sign directly to the customer."

The council says it also offers a text relay service which enables deaf and hard of hearing people who use a text phone to contact any member of staff with a standard phone. By dialling 18001 before the dialling code and usual phone number, the customer will text their half of the conversation to a BT call centre advisor, who will read it out to the person using the standard phone.

The person using the

ordinary phone can then speak as usual and this will be text back to the customer.

There are also BSL videos available on the BCBC website explaining a number of council services.

Deputy leader, Coun David Sage, said: "We work hard to provide the best possible standards of service for our customers."

"This new service ensures that customers who are deaf or hard of hearing can access all the services available in the customer service centre and when they contact the council from home."

## Residents warned of 'phishing' scam

**RESIDENTS** are being alerted to a 'phishing' scam disguised as an email from Amazon, which could lead to the theft of personal data.

Phishing involves an attempt to acquire personal information such as usernames, passwords and credit card details by falsely claiming to be from a trustworthy source. This is usually done via email, and is a very common practice.

The suspicious email, passed on to Bridgend County Borough Council Trading Standards, said: "We have recently determined that various computers connect to your Amazon account."

"We need to confirm the new information from your Amazon account. If not completed within 48 hours, we will be forced to suspend your account indefinitely, because it can be used in a fraudulent intent. Thank you for your comprehension in this way."

The scam involves recipients of the email being asked to follow the instructions by clicking on a link which could result in personal information being stolen. BCBC Trading Standards officers are advising anyone receiving the email to delete it.

BCBC Deputy Leader Coun David Sage said: "Our suspicions were raised when reading the message, as its content is confusing and is very unlikely to be an email sent by a multi-national company such as Amazon."

"Many people use email and the internet on a daily basis, and will be aware of the type of junk mail that is regularly received. Scamming techniques are becoming increasingly advanced, and it can often be difficult for people to differentiate between a genuine email and a phishing message."

Emails of this nature often give the impression

responding to suspicious emails."

If you'd like further advice on scams, or to report what you feel may be a fraudulent email, contact Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 08454 04 05 06 or email [tradingstandards@bridgend.gov.uk](mailto:tradingstandards@bridgend.gov.uk).

## Shake off the winter blues

**BRYNGARW House and Country Park in Brynmynyn, Bridgend has got an exciting programme of events planned for spring 2013, including craft events to make special gifts for family and friends, an annual favourites such as birdsong walk and an exciting Easter weekend with the popular Easter egg hunt.**

A spokeswoman explained: "We are kick-starting the events programme with a special occasion in your calendar – Valentine's Day."

"Get crafty at Bryngarw with

Valentine's Day crafts on Saturday, February 9. At 11am, children can make special cards to give to their family and friends on the special day, admission is £2 per child.

"Then at 2pm, the adults have the opportunity to create their very own love spoon to give their loved ones something personal for Valentine's Day, admission is £3."

Tickets for the event can be ordered online at [www.grandpavilion.co.uk](http://www.grandpavilion.co.uk) or by calling the ticket hotline on 01656 815995.

## HIGH TIDE TIMES (UNTIL FEBRUARY 14)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
07 Thur	03.19	8.3	16.03	8.5
08 Fri	04.33	9.2	17.02	9.3
09 Sat	05.28	9.6	17.54	9.7
10 Sun	06.17	10.1	18.40	10.1
11 Mon	07.02	10.4	19.22	10.2
12 Tues	07.42	10.2	19.57	10.1
13 Wed	08.21	10.3	20.39	9.8
14 Thur	09.01	9.9	21.11	9.6

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.



# Judge 'takes a chance' on drugs dealer and suspends his sentence

A BRIDGEND drugs dealer has been given a suspended sentence at Cardiff Crown Court.

Rhys Woolley (21), came to the attention of the police when a mobile patrol spotted him on Bridgend Trading Estate, driving a Mini Cooper "extra carefully", said prosecutor Jason Howells.

Woolley, of West Road, Bridgend, a man with no previous convictions, admitted supplying mephedrone. He was jailed for 24 weeks, sentence suspended for 18 months, and ordered to carry out 200 hours unpaid work.

Said Recorder Christopher Clew: "You don't need me to tell you that this drug has taken over in south Wales."

Mr Howells said that on June 16, two officers were on mobile patrol

## Report by AJ SICLUNA

on the estate. They pulled over Woolley because they were suspicious of his careful driving.

The vehicle was searched and inside was found a phial of clear fluid, which he said was steroids belonging to a friend.

The officers checked his mobile phone and on it were text messages indicating he was involved with supplying drugs. He had £310 on him, which the police seized.

His home was later searched and in a bedside cabinet, they found a quantity of mephedrone, also known as 'meow meow'. The phial was found to contain testosterone, a Class C drug.

From the messages on his phone, there was one concerning threats over a drugs debt.

His counsel Stephen

Thomas said: "His best mitigation was his guilty plea. He started using drugs socially, but sadly it became a habit and he built up a significant debt."

"To pay it off, he began selling drugs."

He said some of the text messages were "worrying".

"He accepts responsibility for what he has done and does not blame anyone else. He is now totally drugs-free and is genuinely remorseful."

"In fact, the entire experience has frightened him, and he is fearful of a custodial sentence."

The Recorder said: "I accept you have conquered your addiction, and I hope your involvement has brought you to your senses."

He added: "I'm going to take a chance with you. I hope you have learned your lesson."

# Award for Porthcawl Sea Cadets



Porthcawl Sea Cadets are celebrating being awarded the Gibson Trophy 2012.

## Support worker's informative talk for Parkinson's group



Mrs Hierons (centre) with Mrs Joan Hughes and Mr Keith Rowlands.

AT the January meeting of Parkinson's Porthcawl Support Group (PPSG), Mrs Kathleen Hierons gave an interesting talk on her work for Parkinson's UK.

Her title is local information and support officer, covering Neath, Port Talbot and the Bridgend areas.

Kathleen said that every day is different. One day it may be someone who has just been diagnosed with Parkinson's and feels alone and frightened. Kathleen listens to their personal situation, gives advice, information and support. She will also inform them about what help is available in the area.

Some people may require assistance to fill in forms. Other sufferers may need help around the home, especially if they live alone, or if their partner may also be their carer, and to know how to deal with changes in their lifestyle. It is all in a day's work for Kathleen!

She also talked about how the

changes in benefit system may affect some people. Although many of the questions on the new benefit forms are simple 'yes or no' questions, they often may need further detail.

Kathleen emphasised the importance of giving this detail, because Parkinson's is different every day, affecting balance, walking, co-ordination and tiredness.

Kathleen brought a large number of publications about the various aspects of the disease and help that is available. Her job is to help the sufferer get the required information and possible funding available to improve their lives.

At the end, Kathleen was thanked by Mr Charlesworth for a very interesting talk.

The next meeting of the PPSG is 10.30am on Friday, February 22 at the Unitarian Church Schoolroom, Nottage. For further information contact Mrs N Charlesworth on 01656 783071.

PORTHCAWL Sea Cadets, also known as TS St David, have recently been awarded the Gibson Trophy for 2012 - an award given to the most improved unit in the south west area of the UK.

This follows an outstanding performance by all the cadets during its Royal Naval Parade (RNP), where the unit and the cadets are visited and inspected by a Royal Naval Officer.

Their 2012 RNP led the unit to receive a pennant, the second highest recognition of achievement in the Sea Cadet Corps, and a special one for 2012 celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

A spokeswoman said: "This all follows a very successful year where cadets and staff have obtained numerous qualifications, both out on the water and off, ranging from RYA sailing and powerboating qualifications, to 'Sea Cadet Aviation Silver Wings'.

"Of course, none of this would be possible without the hard work and commitment of the volunteer staff, the supporting unit management committee, and of course, most importantly, the cadets, who the inspecting officer described as some of the most enthusiastic and spirited youngsters he'd seen."

"Last year also saw the retirement of the unit's long standing committee chairman, Mr Ray Bolton, who has been its chairman for more than 20 years, and has shown amazing dedication and commitment to the hundreds of young people who have passed through and gained so much from the unit."

"All at Porthcawl Sea Cadets wish to thank Mr Bolton for all he has done to support, maintain and keep Porthcawl Sea Cadets operational, and wish him all the best for the future. They would also like to welcome the new chairman, Mike Clarke."

Porthcawl Sea Cadets meet every Tuesday and Friday from 7pm to 9.30pm in the building next to the harbour, and is open to all young people aged between 10 years of age and 18 years of age, as well as adult volunteers.

It aims to provide young people with fun, friendship, adventure and the opportunity to learn new skills. Courses are available in anything from rock climbing and shooting, through to IT and communications to sailing and windsurfing.

More details can be found by contacting them on 07545 246091, at e m a i l porthcawlsc@hotmai.co.uk; alternatively, call in to the unit to see what they are all about.

## Coity WI in 90th birthday book...

THE Glamorgan Federation Of Women's Institutes is celebrating its 90th anniversary, so this year will offer many special activities to mark the occasion.

The 90th anniversary book is making its way around the area, each WI creating pages which record the activities of their club. Coity WI received the book from Ogmere Vale WI, at what I am told was a "lovely fun evening."

The Coity pages, very nicely prepared by Mary Poland, were then added, and the book was handed on to Bridgend WI at a social evening held at Hope Chapel.

Members of the walking group met at Cardiff Bay for a six-mile walk round the Bay, taking in the Barrage. They had an excellent time, missed the rain, and hope to do enough walking through the year to make up 90 anniversary miles.

Coity Whist players did very well in their recent tournament, with Val Clatworthy taking first prize.

The year promises new craft classes and the start of the coffee morning socials which were so enjoyed last

year. The speaker at the first meeting of 2013 was Mrs Jan Price, who, after her introductory talk, demonstrated the exotic art of veil dancing.

An offshoot of belly-dancing, it was introduced to us as a gentle way for women to keep fit, and to enjoy relaxing and socialising together. Age and size, we were told, were of no consequence.

We were all impressed with Jan's suppleness and grace, and were shocked to learn her age - enough to say she will pass for someone 20 years younger, a wonderful advocate for her art.

The eastern music created an irresistible atmosphere, and Jan had no problem encouraging some of the ladies to try it out, with varying results! Chairman Lyn Griffiths thanked Jan for a fun evening, saying she was truly inspirational.

The next meeting takes place at Coity Church Hall on February 27 at 7.30pm. The speaker will be Gil Nelson, who will give a talk on Emmaus, south Wales.

## Bridge club results

THE latest results for Bridgend Bridge club are:

Wednesday, January 30: First, Mary Moore and Di Jones; second, Bill Turner and Marjorie Morris; third Geoff Barnes and Pete Bugden.

Friday, February 1: North-South - First, Bill Turner and Ann Fox; second, Megan Taylor and Sheila Storer; third, Mari Jones and Daphne Caddy; East-West - First, Debbie and Dave Lea; second, John Henson and Geoff Tinkler; third, Muriel Maslin and Margaret Williams.

In addition to the regular club nights on Wednesdays and Fridays at 7pm at Noltan Church Hall, to which all bridge players are welcome, there are lessons with John and Christine Evans at 2pm on Thursdays afternoons for those players who wish to improve their card play and learn some of the simpler conventions.

For further information and to register an interest, call Jon on 01656 880372. The Friday evening lessons with Graham Jones have been suspended until after Easter.

## QUIZ LEAGUE ROUND-UP

IN the quarter-finals of the KO Cup on Monday, January 28, all four matches went to current form.

Tondu Railway Club, after a bright enough start, began a steady decline, finally succumbing to Llangewydd Arms by 77 points to 59. Tyrisha Nomads also reached the 70s; it could have been more but with a good lead they decided to gamble in the roll-up round, blew the last question and had to settle for 71 points to Laleston Inn B's 50.

The Laleston Inn A team did a little better, but had to admit defeat to Mackworth Arms,

who won 65-60.

The other Cup game resulted in a convincing win for Crown Inn A against Oldcastle B by 68 points to 41.

In the Plate quarter-finals, there was a tense struggle between Oldcastle A and Tyrisha Royals. It was neck and neck throughout, and the Royals edged it by 65 to 64.

Crown Inn B failed to emulate their A team, and were eliminated at Cabo Roche, 60-53.

Greenmeadow found Pheasant Gamekeepers a shade too strong, losing 64-58 and finally, another second division side were unable to bridge the divisional gap, when Pyle RFC lost to

Pheasant Poachers by 64 points to 38.

HERE ARE YOUR FOUR TEASERS:

1. McCarren Airport serves which US city?
2. Of which European republic was Thomas Masaryk the first president?
3. Name the Australian who rode in the Epsom Derby for the first time in 2004 and finished second on Rule of Law?
4. Who composed 'Air on a G String'?

A RUDGE (for Quiz League)

4 J S Bach.  
3 K McEvoy.  
2 Czechoslovakia.  
1 Las Vegas.  
ANSWERS:

## Fundraising plea

KPC Youth is appealing to the public to support its fundraising schemes.

These include: recycling old unwanted clothes, handbags, hats, belts, soft toys and bedding; selling good quality or new clothes on eBay; recycling old toner/ink cartridges; collecting used postage stamps and collecting old or unwanted foreign coins.

Contributions can be dropped off to KPC from Monday to Friday, 7am-3pm or evenings 5.30-10pm.

KPC Youth is situated next to Pil Primary School, off Pyle Inn Way, Pyle, CF33 6AB; telephone 01656 749219/745399, or email kpcyouth@hotmail.com.

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# Cadet Officer Chris selected for Queen's commission in RAF



Chris Lewis with some of the cadets from 2117 (Kenfig Hill) Squadron, RAF Air Cadets.

**STAFF and cadets at No3 Welsh Wing, RAF Air Cadets have congratulated Officer Cadet Chris Lewis, who has been selected for a Queen's commission in the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve (training) branch at RAF College Cranwell's officer aircrew selection centre in Lincolnshire.**

A spokesperson reports: "Chris, a volunteer instructor with 2117 (Kenfig Hill) Squadron, is the first adult in the Wing to successfully complete the new selection procedures.

"These were introduced last year to bring the Air Cadet organisation into line with arrangements used by the parent organisation, the Royal Air Force."

Pilot Officer Rhys Thomas of 293 (Cowbridge) Squadron, who was the last officer in the Wing to be commissioned under the old arrangements, said: "This is a first for No3 Welsh Wing, so now Chris can share his secrets on how it's done! Massive congratulations to Chris."

Already, other aspirants for a Queen's commission are queuing up to ask Chris to share his experiences.

Chris joined the Air Cadets as a 14-year-old with 275 (Nantyglo and Blaينا) squadron.

As an adult, walking past the recruitment stand at the Swansea airshow in 2011, he remembered the fun he had had as a cadet.

He asked for an application form to become an adult volunteer and applied to join the staff of 2117 (Kenfig Hill) squadron.

Chris said: "I was fortunate enough to be in a position with my full time employer to be able to attend every Squadron parade night. After a short time, I was asked to become health safety and environment officer for the squadron.

"I had always enjoyed hiking and I joined the basic expedition leadership course too. This is designed to enable senior cadets and adult staff to achieve a nationally recognised qualification, and provides certification for leading cadets on day walks and expeditions."

His other duties on the squadron include making visits to RAF stations, attending annual camp, and taking part in other exciting adventure training opportunities, and undertaking skills development in a number of areas.

Last year, Chris was asked to consider a uniformed role, and urged to become a commissioned officer. He was offered more roles in the squadron, and having successfully completed a number of training courses, was selected to attend a board at the officer aircrew selection centre, which he did last December.

Chris is "absolutely delighted" and proud to be a representative of the Royal Air Force, the Air Cadets, No3 Welsh Wing and especially of 2117 (Kenfig Hill) Squadron. He hopes to be an inspiration for others looking for similar responsibilities and excitement.

## YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS

### Mental Health Matters

I HAVE been given information which may help people over 18 who may have concerns about their own mental health or that of members of their family or a friend.

Wellbeing centres provide free advice and information and one-to-one support.

There are three wellbeing centres in place they are: Bridgend Wellbeing, Nolton Church Hall, Merthyr Mawr Road; Kenfig Hill Wellbeing, Talbot Community Centre, 9, Prince Rd; Maesteg Wellbeing, Central Ecumenical Church, Church St.

Bridgend activities – Friday, February 8, 1pm-2pm, music workshop; 2pm-3pm, reading group.

February 12, 11.30am to 3.30pm, gardening club; 12pm-2pm, mindfulness with Gareth; 12.30pm-1.30pm, food hygiene with David Joseph; 1.30pm-2.30pm, ACT workshop-making Valentine cards; 2pm-3pm, reading group.

Maesteg – Thursday, February 7, 12.30pm-4.30pm, gardening group; 2pm-3pm, photography workshop; 2pm-3pm, time to change Wales talk by Emma; 2pm-3.30pm, bingo; Kenfig Hill – Wednesday, February 13, 2pm-4pm, Arts and crafts; 2pm-3pm, Legends of the Welsh coast talk by Alan Underhill; 3pm-4pm, reading group.

**Maesteg concert**  
MAESTEG Town Hall is the venue for the annual concert of Cór

### NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:

If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.

I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: **CLIVE MITCHELL**

1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ

TEL: 01656 725399

email: tyncoed1@yahoo.co.uk



**Meibion Maesteg a'r Cylch (Maesteg and District male choir) on Saturday, February 16, at 7pm.**

The conductor will be musical director Rhian Jenkins, assisted by accompanist Ryan Wood. The compère is Beverley Humphreys, the well-known broadcaster, writer and singer.

Beverley has been asked to speak in Westminster about the legacy of Paul Robeson and his son's visit to the UK. For the past 10 years he has narrated the Paul Robeson tribute concert with Sir Willard White.

She has performed at all the major UK concert halls and she has appeared in concert from Vancouver to New York.

Tickets for the concert can be obtained from any choir member, Llangynwyd post office or telephone 01656 735305.

**Parents' time**  
TONDU Primary School's Mrs Susan Pilcher says there two parent evenings next week on February 12-13 to give everyone the opportunity of discussing children's progress.

**Carers' centre**  
THE centre is located at 87, Park Street, Bridgend, (telephone

01656 658479) and is a welcoming venue for all.

On February 12 a representative from the CRUSE bereavement support group will be at the centre to offer advice from 10.30am-12noon.

On February 13 in the community café, there will be representatives from Carers Wales present from 12.30pm-3.30pm.

On February 14 between 9.30am and 1.30pm, Katie Thomas, advisor from Macmillan welfare rights, will be available to advise carers who will eligible for financial support. Telephone for an appointment.

### Tribute concert

**ST Bride's Church, Llansantffraid was the venue for a recent concert to support the charity 'Grace's Gift'.**

The charity helps those who have lost a child (17 new born babies die every day in the UK).

One such parent was Sammie Lambert Worgan, who helped organise the concert in memory of her daughter Mila, lost shortly after being born.

She enlisted a number of school friends who agreed to support the concert.

The compère, Paul Morgan, introduced Sammie, who started the concert by singing 'Hallelujah' the Leonard Cohen song. Richard Chambers sang 'Stars' from Les Miserables and the next artist, Elly Jones, who studied musical theatre at Bridgend College before going to Exeter university, sang 'Titanium'.

This was followed

with a duet by Kelly Browning and Martin Tee, who also played the guitar, with 'Wherever you will go' and 'Perfect'.

Cathryn Mizen, formerly with the Peter Singers, sang 'Hello', followed by Sammie singing a duet with Nico Fitzgibbon.

The second half started with Katie Elin-Salt on keyboard singing 'Songbird' and the 'The first time I ever saw your face', followed by Tanyth Roberts singing 'Open arms'.

They were followed by Nico Fitzgibbon with 'Make you feel my love' and 'Here without you'.

Sammie ended the concert with a song dedicated to her daughter, 'Mila Angel'.

### MESIG concert

MESIG charity supports sufferers of ME and is holding a spectacular evening of song and dance to raise money for a lady, Carol Davies, who is completely house bound, in order to receive help at a hospital in Kent.

The event, at the Glenwood church, Circle Way West, Cardiff, CF23 6UW, on February 14 from 7pm, and the organisers hope to raise over £3,000.

### Gleemen

MAESTEG Gleemen male voice choir will be performing at the Riverboat, venue of Caerau Athletic and football club on Friday, February 8 at 7.30pm to raise money for charity.

Tickets are £2.50 and can be obtained from Rachel at the club, or Billy on 01656 738151.

## Lynne proves shoppers' friend

**A MEMBER of staff at the Co-operative Food store in Pontycymmer was praised for her dedication to the community during the treacherous weather last week.**

When an expected delivery had still not arrived by closing time on Sunday, Lynne Stanton stayed at the store until midnight to ensure it could be received, so there would be plenty

of groceries on shelves when customers arrived the next morning.

Manager Stephen Wiley, said: "When the adverse weather sets in, it becomes an obstacle for all of us and accessing basic provisions can become a challenge for local people.

"Lynne really encompasses the Co-op commitment to local communities and I'm proud to have her in my team."

## Garages get the mystery shopper test!

**LOCAL garages have been subject to 'mystery shopper' checks as part of a recent survey carried out by Bridgend County Borough Council's Trading Standards team.**

The survey tested whether garages offering 'free' safety checks on vehicles were actually providing accurate information to potential customers on the condition of their cars.

This included establishing whether any misleading statements were made to consumers which could result in them paying for unnecessary services.

And while no major problems were uncovered, a number of 'best practice' issues were identified as being a cause for concern. These included failures to provide any form of written warning notice in the

event of potentially dangerous defects being identified.

Additional advice and guidance is now being provided to the relevant businesses by BCBC Trading Standards.

BCBC Deputy Leader Coun David Sage said: "Consumers should be made fully aware of what a service actually covers. Where faults or areas of concern are identified, then this should be presented to consumers in a clear manner, which could include a vehicle report."

For further advice or to report traders who may be operating unfairly, call Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 08454 04 05 06. If you are a Bridgend County Borough-based business requiring advice on your rights and obligations, call BCBC Trading Standards on 01656 643479 or email tradingstandards@bridgend.gov.uk

## Who wants to build what and where in the borough?

**Notemachine – Ogmogre Vale Post Office, 46 High Street, Ogmogre Vale – Internally illuminated free cash withdrawals sign and surround.**

**Mr Jason Chadwick – New Look, 7 Talbot Street, Maesteg – Illuminated fascia sign and projecting sign.**

**Mrs J Arkless – New Hibernian, 13 Llywdarth Road, Maesteg – Change of use from social club/public house to hostel with warden's accommodation, resubmission of P/12/590/FUL.**

**Mr Nick Greentree – 68 Highfields, Brackla – Two storey side extension with built-in chimney.**

**Mr A Shiva – Autoseek, Penybon Road, Pencoe – Change of use from car sales to car hand wash valeting.**

**Notemachine – Ogmogre Vale Post Office, 46 High Street, Ogmogre Vale – Retention of ATM with black bezel surround.**

**Purdie Ltd – Andrew Butchers, 141 Commercial Street, Maesteg – 2 x internal window graphics in first floor window.**

**Pyle and Kenfig Golf Club – Waun y Mor, Kenfig – Alterations to existing first floor flat to provide four rooms for short term lets.**

**Mr A Thomas – 24 Pant y**

**Ffynnon, Pencoe – Two storey garage/bedroom extension to side and single storey extension to rear (resubmission P/12/637/FUL).**

**Coenagant Caravan Holding Park – Land adjacent Brynlefrith Farm, Caerau, Maesteg – Extend existing caravan storage for up to 100 caravans and new fence and landscape works for screening.**

**Mr Bryan Sparkes – 17 Philadelphia Road, Porthcawl – Two storey extension to rear. Bridgend Paper Mills – Georgia Pacific GB Ltd, Bridgend Paper Mills, Llangynwyd – Remove existing patent glazing to north end wall to pulp store and replace with profiled metal cladding.**

**Mr M Berry – 55 Ystad Celyn, Maesteg – New extension to provide garage, playroom, utility room and bedroom.**

**Mr G Burridge – Avalon, 19 Vale View Villas, Ogmogre Vale – Single storey extension to provide dining room.**

**Mr Paul Thomas – 13 Priory Avenue, Bridgend – Proposed single storey wc extension for disabled person.**

**Mr C Evans – East Nor House, The Square, Porthcawl – Change of use of dwelling into eight-bed house in multiple occupation.**

**Miss Catherine Austin – Harts**

**Building, Newlands Avenue, Brackla Industrial Estate, Bridgend – Change of use of Class B2 into gymnasium and fitness centre (Class D2) resubmission of P/12/584/FUL.**

**Mr Richard Hawkins – Maes-y-Ffynnon, Chapel Row, Rhwiceiliog – Single storey extension to rear and two storey extension to side.**

**Mr R Jones – Fernhollows, Glynogwr, Blackmill – Two storey extension to side of property.**

**Mr Rowe – 47 Limetree Way, Porthcawl – Erection of conservatory.**

**Mr G Barnard – Land adjacent Wyndham Arms, Wyndham, Ogmogre Vale – Detached domestic garage to replace former garage destroyed by fire.**

**Gary Mayo Property – The Rest Convalescent Home, Rest Bay, Porthcawl – New convalescent home, change of use of existing home to residential, demolition and 34 new residential units.**

**Mr N Clear – 31 Pen yr Heol, Pen-y-Fai, Bridgend – Second storey extension to bungalow to create two storey dwelling and conservatory/hall/wc extension to rear.**



# CELEBRITY DOODLE EVENT HELPS EPILEPSY CHARITY

**BRIDGEND-born newsreader Huw Edwards and Bridgend MP Madeleine Moon are among a host of famous faces taking part in this year's National Doodle Day.**

Their doodles will be auctioned on eBay from Friday, February 8, National Doodle Day. The auction will raise money for national charity Epilepsy Action.

The duo have been joined by household names including Sir Ian McKellen, Rita Ora, Tess Daly, Sir Terry Wogan, Mary Berry, Gok Wan, Joanna Lumley and Michael Sheen in doodling for the annual event.

National Doodle Day, which is supported by Dodo Pad, publishers of the original family 'doodle' diary, is now in its tenth year. It aims to get as many people doodling as possible to help support the 32,000 people with epilepsy across Wales. The celebrity doodle eBay auction will begin on National Doodle Day and will run until February 17.

More than 1,000 celebrities have taken part in National Doodle

Day since it began, and people in Bridgend can join them by doing their own doodle.

This year, Epilepsy Action is inviting budding artists to 'do a doodle, donate a pound' with the chance of a prize for anyone taking part.

Prizes for the best doodles will be awarded in three categories – seven years and under; eight to 16 years, and 17 years and over.

The winning doodlers will receive up to £150 worth of arts and crafts vouchers and a 3D stuffed figure, custom-made to look exactly like their doodle, courtesy of Lucy Moose. There is an additional competition for schools and colleges.

Philippa Cartwright, fundraising events manager at Epilepsy Action, said: "National Doodle Day is a great way for celebrities and members of the public alike to get creative for a good cause."

"It is a fantastic, fun event and absolutely anyone can take part. Taking just five minutes out of your day to doodle can make all the difference to the 600,000 people living with epilepsy in the UK."

"Just £10 could fund

a call to our freephone Epilepsy Helpline, giving one caller the answers and support they need, at a time they need it most."

"So please get doodling or bid on one of our celebrity doodles and help us draw a line through epilepsy."

Individual entries should be drawn on an A5 piece of card and include name, age, telephone number and address on the back.

Closing date for entries is Friday, March 8. There is a suggested minimum donation of £1 for each entry.

To order an organiser's guide or to enter the competition, visit [www.nationaldoodle-day.org.uk](http://www.nationaldoodle-day.org.uk).

To find out more about National Doodle Day, visit the website or call 0113 210 8800.



Madeleine Moon's doodle



Huw Edward's doodle

## Chess team in drawn game

**BRIDGEND'S B team match the more experienced Mark Williams and John Pearce of Rhondda.** Peter Ballytine, who had returned to competitive chess after a lapse of 15 years, soon found he had not lost his touch with a fine win over Peter Williams on board 3; Mike Kearn against Dave Lewis on board 1 resulted in a draw and Andrew Divetta defeated Bill Davies on board 2, putting Bridgend B into third place in Division 4.

Bridgend, who had three new players playing against an established Rhondda side, were more than satisfied with the result as Mathew Orchard and James Williams, both new players to competitive chess, both showed their potential before losing their games to

MIKE KEARN

## Striking images are on show at local photographic society

THE Pyle & Porthcawl Photographic Society held its annual club competition Two on January 31 at The Rest in Porthcawl, two sections – prints and digital projected images, with a trophy for each.

Members could enter up to two images into both sections and Alan Shepherd judged both competitions, awarded marks, and also provided a critique on each image.

In the print section, first place went to Paul Rosser with 'Robin'. Trevor Owen took second place with 'Red-eyed Tree Frog'. Third place was a tie between 'Twigs and the Moon' by Richard Craze and 'American Bald Eagle' by Paul Rosser.

In the digital section, first place went to Gail Evans with 'What Women Want'. Second place was a tie between 'Today's Sermon Is' and 'Demolition', both by Trevor Owen. Third place went to Martyn Derbyshire with 'Mr Jones'.

Congratulations to Paul and Gail on winning the competitions, and a big thank you to all who participated for making it such an interesting and entertaining evening.

GLYN EDMUNDS



Paul Rosser (right) receives the print trophy.



The winning print.



Trevor Owen's 'Today's sermon is...'

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# Care home residents have wishes granted on special day



PHOTOGRAPHS by  
KEITH E MORGAN.

ABOVE: The various 'wishes' are presented to recipients.



Mrs Bennett and friends, granted her wish for Knickerbocker Glories!

**RESIDENTS at the Albert Edward Prince of Wales Court, Porthcawl recently celebrated 'Dignity in Care Day'.**

Alison Owen, the manager, explained that it was an annual opportunity for health and social care workers, as well as members of the

public, to promote the need to uphold people's rights to dignity and provide a truly memorable day for people who use care services.

She said: "We at Albert Edward asked our residents to make a wish. All of these wishes have been placed on the Wishing Tree in the foyer. We had some that are harder than others to

grant and, unfortunately, we will not be able to make the sun shine every day, or for a loved one to come back to us."

She introduced Phil Aubrey of Bridgend, vice chairman of the Friends of the Court, and Mike Williams of Cardiff, a member of the Court committee.

She continued: "However, there were a number of wishes that we felt that we could do something about and we have to thank Phil and Mike, together with the Friends of the Court, for generously providing these free of charge."

"For instance: Mrs Susan Barnes wished for a Wii for her unit. This wish we have been able to grant."

"Mrs Evelyn Campbell asked for an exercise bike for the whole home to enjoy and this will be assembled and placed in the tower very shortly."

"Dr Grant Evans asked for a golf putting green and this will be available to request from reception."

"Mr John Wadia was keen for a dart board for when the gents spend time in the bar. This will be put up early next week."

"Mr Alan Petty and Mr Gwyn Evans both requested steak. We are holding a gents' steak night at the home later this month. The friends

of the court have sponsored this event."

"Mrs Shirley Hughes and Mrs Rae Thomas requested a trip to America. Unfortunately, we are not able to grant this wish. However, we are holding an Independence Day party on July 4. Shirley and Rae will be special guests at this event and there will be an opportunity to taste lots of different American food, including Hershey bars."

"Mr Barrington and Vernon Ireland requested a trip to the pub, which has been included on the programme for March."

"Nor Warrington wanted to go dancing so we have ensured that the tea dance is back on the programme. This will be starting in March and during the 40th anniversary celebrations, we will be holding a tea dance here at the home at which the Jeff Guppy Band will be playing."

"Lastly, following this presentation there is an opportunity for 12 of our residents to take part in Mrs Bennett's wish, as she requested a Knickerbocker Glory."

She concluded: "We would like to thank Phil and Mike and the Friends of the Court for their support in this matter, and hope that they will continue to support the home so generously in the future."



Alyson Owen, manager, Albert Edward Prince of Wales Court, introducing Mr Phil Aubrey of Bridgend, vice-chairman of the Friends of the Court, and Mr Mike Williams of Cardiff, who is a member of the Court committee - and their first granted wish of the Wii.



ABOVE: Dr Grant Evans trying his arm at a game of putting, watched carefully by Rebecca Timms, business administrator, and carer Bertha Tshose.

## Firm in Wales Cyprus link



Robert Stirrat signs the partnership agreement with ISA Training's managing director Shirley Davis-Fox (left) and lead internal verifier Sarah Heenan.

**ISA TRAINING, the Welsh hairdressing and beauty training provider, will support City and Guilds apprenticeships in hairdressing delivered by Discovery Training's three training centres in Cyprus.**

"Our agreement with ISA Training enables us to deliver accredited City and Guilds apprenticeships

in Cyprus, where British based qualifications are highly respected and valued," Robert Stirrat, managing director of Discovery Training explained.

Hairdressers who complete Level 3 apprenticeships will also be State Registered with the Hairdressing Council in the UK.



## Fly tippers dumped 840 tyres in the River Ogmore

**MORE than 800 tyres dumped in the River Ogmore have been removed by a clean-up team led by Bridgend County Borough Council.**

A council spokesman explained that the tyres were washed to the mouth of the river near the Merthyr Mawr sand dunes during the recent bad weather.

"A joint effort was made to clear the tyres,

with Bridgend County Borough Council's Tidy Towns Team, the Countryside Council for Wales, workers from the Merthyr Mawr Estate and Rob Williams from Ogmore Farm all helping to clear the tyres. Mr Williams also provided a tractor and trailer from the farm to remove the tyres, with machinery from Merthyr Mawr Estate also being used."

"The group cleared a total of 842 tyres from the river which the council's Highways department then transported to

be disposed of," the spokesman said.

With hundreds of tyres dumped by flytippers still estimated to remain in various locations, the clean up work is set to continue into the spring.

Cabinet member for communities, Coun Phil White, said: "It's sad that a few people's selfish actions spoil the river's natural beauty. It's something that everyone needs to work together to stop."

"Fly-tipping costs the county borough thousands of pounds every year and harms the environment, so I'd urge everyone who sees anybody illegally dumping rubbish to contact the council."

Fly-tipping is a criminal offence which can be penalised with fines of up to £50,000 or six months in jail. To report an incident of fly-tipping phone the council's contact centre on 643643 or email [cleanup@bridgend.gov.uk](mailto:cleanup@bridgend.gov.uk).

## Old Christmas cards recycled



**A CHRISTMAS card recycling appeal at Sainsbury's Bridgend, filled 11 large bin bags and the store is now making a donation to the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) based on the volume of cards collected.**

Store manager, Simon Lean, said: "We'd like to thank everyone who donated their Christmas cards to the appeal. It was great to see so many people taking the opportunity to clear out their old Christmas cards and support the environment, and we hope to continue providing this service to our customers in future."

## COMMUNITY NEWS

TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

Your local correspondent is  
Nancy Davidge, "Tynewydd",  
Llangan. (01656) 860303

**Llangan school members** Gloria Harries and Bob Jaques.

**Flooding around local villages**

**WHERE oh where is the Vale of Glamorgan highways department?**

I refer to the continuing problem of flooding outside the village of Treoes.

At one point, a Treoes resident was forced to clear a culvert to prevent the flood water entering his home.

I can recall local community councillors taking it upon themselves to keep these culverts clear.

Now, of course, it is the duty of the Vale highways department and with the modern equipment available the problem could be rectified in a very short time.

**Did you know you can read your GEM online?**  
[bridgend-today.co.uk](http://bridgend-today.co.uk)



# Laptop is stolen from Porthcawl property

POLICE are investigating a burglary which occurred between 11.15 am and 7.30pm on Thursday, January 31, at a house on Cheltenham Road, Porthcawl.

A silver-coloured Mac-book Pro was stolen and detectives are appealing to the public for information.

They want to hear from anyone who may have seen a small white van which was parked in the street between 11.30am and 11.45am, or from the driver of the vehicle.

Detective Constable Michael Maund of Bridgend CID said: "We want to hear from any witnesses who may have seen this van, or anyone acting suspiciously in the area."

Anyone with information is asked to contact Bridgend CID on 101, or anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555111 quoting reference 62130031095.

## 'Thanks for the help during snow and ice'

I WOULD like publicly to thank all the staff from Bridgend County Borough Council's Bridge Start team, for the care and help given to my mother during all the snow and ice.

We thought we would be on our own, but with the help of 4 x 4 transport, they turned up four times a day, smiling and happy to take care of

their ladies and gents, many of whom have no family.

Thanks also to the Portway surgery's doctors and district nurse, as my mother needs insulin twice a day.

They walked to us and I cannot thank them enough.

A big thank you from my brother and myself. Robert James and Dee Richardson, Porthcawl

The GEM is in partnership with the Dog's Trust to find caring homes for animals in their charge at Bridgend Rehoming Centre (Telephone: 01656 725219)

## Can you give Collie a home?

THIS week, Bridgend rehoming centre introduces Bruce, a five-year-old Collie:

"We all absolutely adore him, but he has been with us too long and we really want to see him in his perfect home."

"He is a very friendly, affectionate dog, who loves his long walks. He really enjoys having his beautiful coat brushed and groomed."

"Bruce is frightened of dogs he doesn't know, so is looking for a quiet home, where he can enjoy rural walks where he won't see too many other dogs. Bruce really is a friend for life, and is just looking for someone who will understand his nervousness and give him time and patience."

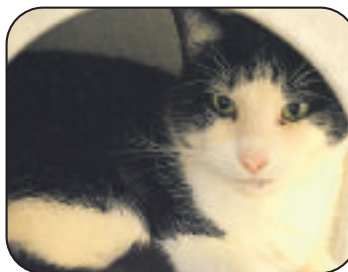
If you think Bruce might be the dog for you, call 01656 725219, or pop in to Dogs Trust Rehoming Centre, Court Colman, Pen-y-Fai, Bridgend, CF31 4NG.

They have around 70 dogs there at any one time, so if you are considering offering your home to a dog, they would welcome a visit.



## CAT OF THE WEEK

'Top of the morning, my name's Paddy'



Hi, my name is Paddy... I was brought to the Bridgend Adoption Centre as my owner could no longer keep me because of financial difficulty.

"I found it difficult at first, leaving the home I had lived in since I was a little kitten, and became very quiet and withdrawn."

"The carers at the centre spent a lot of time with me, giving me lots of TLC, and I am now much more settled. I am a friendly cat who loves company and enjoys having a lap to curl up on."

Contact the Cats Protection, Bridgend Adoption Centre, Pant Hirwaun, Bryncethin, Bridgend, CF32 9UJ, telephone 01656 726 621, email bridgend.manager@cats.org.uk or visit www.facebook.com/cpbridgend

## Local store looks to help community volunteers

STAFF at the Wilkinson stores on Nolton Street, Bridgend, Llynfi Road, Maesteg, and Barry are offering a helping hand to community groups and charities in the area who need extra support with local projects.

Whether the project benefits young people, families or the elderly, Wilkinsons is appealing to anyone who is passionate about their local community to get involved and apply for a donation.

People living in Bridgend and Maesteg will be able to apply to the stores for a donation, Wilkinsons' products or team members can volunteer their time, as they

are also keen to roll up their sleeves to support neighbourhood developments.

Steffan Roberts, store manager at Wilkinson in Bridgend, said: "The Helping Hands scheme is an initiative where funding is provided to support local projects."

"As a company, it's great to be able to help local community groups and charities by giving something back to the area, whether it's seeds to help a community garden bloom or paint for a local animal shelter, we are able to help."

Application forms can be collected from the stores and once completed, should be returned to the help desk.

Successful applicants will be notified within three months of submission.

## What's on, and where - in brief

### Tax help for elderly

TAX Help for Older People will hold an advice surgery at Pencoed Library on Tuesday, February 6.

To book an appointment or to use the helpline, telephone 0845 6013321.

### Rotary music final

BRIDGEND Rotary Club is supporting the

Rotary district final of Rotary's Young Musician of the Year at Taliesin Arts Centre in Swansea University on February 16.

The vocalist competition is at 3pm, and instrumental competition at 7pm.

Tickets £6 for each competition, or £10 for two, available from Taliesin Arts Centre box office, telephone 01792 602060 or online at www.taliesinartscentre.co.uk.

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# YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS

**Llys Cynffig PRESENTATION** – A presentation was made by the Residents of Llys Cynffig Retirement Home in Pyle last Thursday, followed by an afternoon tea which was enjoyed by everyone in a very relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

Among the invited guests were the Deputy Mayor and Mayoress of the County Borough of Bridgend, Coun Clive and Pauline James, and Steve Cook, chief executive of Valleys to Coast.

Claire Phillips, the warden at Llys Cynffig, introduced resident Gaynor Powell who said that they were very proud of the efforts made by everyone in raising money for their charity, the Alzheimer's Society.

This was achieved in many different ways, including holding coffee mornings, running bingo, selling books, having a cake stall at functions and knitting checks for Easter.

They raised a magnificent £2,006 which

was presented to Eryl Davies, dementia support manager, Alzheimer's Society in Abertawe Bro Morgannwg, by resident Doreen Thomas (see picture, far right).

Well done to everyone at Llys Cynffig for thinking of others and doing such good work for the Community.

## Mynydd Cynffig Juniors

**Pupil of the Week** – Congratulations to the following pupils who were nominated for impressing the staff at the school last week:

Keiron Fergusson - class 1, Mia Lunn - class 2, Sam Maddock - class 3, Katy Mansfield - class 4, George Buckley - class 5, Mussawwir Afzal - class 6 and Rico Downing - class 7. The headteacher's award went to Shauna Lewis - class 6.

**Special lunch** – Congratulations also go to the following pupils, who joined Mr Davies for a special lunch last Friday as a reward for their high

standard of behaviour, including politeness to both staff and fellow pupils during lunchtimes last week: Chloe Parry, Brooke Rees Simcock, Victoria Franklyn, Ella Rai Jones, Adam Johnson, Joshua Urch, Finley Hampton, Katy Mansfield, Heather Phillips, Megan Radmore, Lowri Thomas and Connor John.

**Class assembly** – class 3 with Miss Morgan will be performing their assembly on Friday, February 15, in the school hall at 10.15am.

Parents and grandparents of the pupils taking part are welcome to attend and to stay for refreshments after the performance.

**Cross-country league** – Congratulations to Lowri Powis from year-4 and Harry Sleath from year-5 who both ran excellently in the Bridgend Schools Cross-Country meeting at Porthcawl Comprehensive School.

To generate more interest in this event, Mrs Jones has organised a cross-country club every Wednesday at 12noon.

At the first session, almost 40 pupils ran approximately one mile before eating their lunch.

They are hopeful that more pupils will join the club and will take part in the next Bridgend cross-country meeting at Cynffig Comprehensive School on Saturday, March 23, at 10am.

**Shout Kenfig Hill Shout** would like to thank



## COMMUNITY NEWS from KENFIG HILL AND PYLE

by Richard Sims

Telephone: 01656 746840

Mobile: 07802 439679

E-Mail: richardsims@talktalk.net

Sergeant Mike Davies and the two PCSOs for listening to the complaints of the older people and look forward to the outcome following a recent meeting held on January 29 at Theo's Charity Shop.

For further information regarding the activities in Kenfig Hill Shout, ring Stan Rumble on 01656 741203.

## Parish of Pyle & Kenfig

A quiz night will be held on Shrove Tuesday, February 12, at 7pm in Church Hall, Pyle. Tickets cost £3 with refreshments. Everyone is welcome.

**Cots for tots** – Dr Walker is delighted to report that so far they have raised more than £700 for this very worthwhile charity.

**Film Club** – The next meeting of the Film Club will be held in the Church Hall, Pyle, on Tuesday, February 19, at 2pm. All are welcome.

**Ghost the Musical** is being held in the Wales Millennium Centre, Cardiff on April 23.

For anyone who is interested, there are lists in both churches and the Church Hall.

The cost is £40, including the coach which will be leaving the Vicarage at 6 pm.

For further information of events and services happening in the parish, telephone either Rev Dr Duncan Walker on 01656 740500, or Gareth Gardener on 07779 239302.

## Kenfig Hill Wellbeing Centre

Activities being held by Mental Health Matters, Wales, at the Talbot Community, Prince Road, Kenfig Hill, on Wednesday, February 13, include Arts and Crafts with Valley and Vale from 2pm to 4pm, a talk about 'Legends of the Welsh Coast' with Allan Underhill from 2pm to 3pm, and the Reading Group from 3pm to 4pm.

There will also be a social afternoon.



Pauline James (deputy Mayoress), Doreen Thomas, Eryl Davies (Alzheimer's Society), Claire Phillips (warden, Llys Cynffig), Coun Clive James (deputy Mayor).

## 'Operation Drag' at licensed premises

**POLICE** have carried out 'Operation Drag' at licensed premises in Maesteg and Bridgend town centres – to check credentials of door staff.

The main objective was to "provide a visual presence in the town centres to reassure the public and increase public confidence surrounding the licensed premises regarding violent crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour."

Inspector Ralph Harris of Safer

Bridgend explained: "Working with representatives of the Security Industry Authority, we attended a number of licensed premises in Maesteg and Bridgend.

"A small number of minor breaches were identified which have been dealt with.

"We will continue to carry out similar operations across Bridgend county borough to reassure the public and the communities, where these venues are located," he added.

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## Brownies' help for homeless



### Wick and St Bride's Major Brownies.

At an open afternoon in Wick Village Hall, the Wick and St Brides Major Brownies put on an excellent exhibition of all their work throughout the past year – and combined it with a collection of scarves, gloves, hats and socks for homeless people.

They were helped by the Salvation Army Purple Bus in Cardiff, which provides an outreach service.

The bus provides services and support to rough sleepers in Cardiff and is usually based outside the National Museum from 6.30pm to 9pm.

Jane Hutt, the Vale AM, visited the exhibition and was shown around by Girl Guide leaders who work with the local Brownies at Wick Village Hall.

She said: "It was a delight to meet Brownies and their Guide leaders who contribute so much of their time and experience as volunteers. I was impressed with their awareness of social need and their support of the Salvation Army Purple Bus project.

"Well done to the Wick and St Brides Major Brownies and Guides!"

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# YOUNG VOLUNTEERS AND SCHOOL PUPILS HELP THE SANDVILLE...

Angharad Masson presenting a cheque for £200 to Sister Gwyneth Poacher for the Sandville Self Help Centre.

WORDS AND PICTURES  
BY KEITH E MORGAN



**Sandville students recently made two donations to Sister Gwyneth Poacher for the Sandville Foundation.**

On behalf of her sisters Elen, Bethan, Catrin and Ffion, Angharad Masson presented a cheque for £200 to the Sandville Self Help Centre.

As the 'Five Gold Rings', the Masson sisters took part in the Porthcawl Annual Christmas Morning Swim, for which they were sponsored for both Sandville and LATCH.

Representing Porthcawl Comprehensive School,

Jemimah and Adam of year 13, presented a cheque for £500 to Sister Gwyneth Poacher. This donation to Sandville was made from the £6,000 raised by the comprehensive school during Children in Need week.

A third, and surprise presentation was also made to Sister Gwyneth Poacher, on the occasion of her 80th birthday.

A birthday card, signed by all the students, staff, patients and volunteers at the Sandville, was handed to Sister Gwyneth, on behalf of everyone concerned, by Sandville student Jemma.

## Fundraising feast will celebrate Fairtrade fortnight

**SUSTAINABLE WALES, is teaming up with Bridgend College's Seasons Restaurant to hold a Fairtrade Feast on February 28 at 7.30pm, which will coincide with the annual celebration of Fairtrade Fortnight.**

Sustainable Wales has challenged Seasons to create the fairest feast in town, using only Fairtrade, local and ethically-sourced ingredients.

The evening will begin with a drinks reception followed by a mouth-watering three-course meal, ending with an acoustic-set from Eleanor Jones, Welsh cakes and Fairtrade chocolate.

Alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages will also be available from the restaurant bar.

Seasons Restaurant is run by the students of Bridgend College under the supervision of their lecturers. Their aim is to train the next generation of chefs, using locally-sourced ingredients to create healthful meals for healthy people.

They're also open to the

public and for events.

Sustainable Wales' managing director, Margaret Minninnick, commented: "We're really looking forward to working with Seasons to promote Fairtrade Fortnight."

"It's great to see the college already has a policy of serving as much local produce as possible."

"Hopefully the Fairtrade Feast will act as an ethical exhibition for both the student chefs and attendees; encouraging a switch to Fairtrade throughout the country," she added.

Telephone 01656 783962 or call into SUSSED to book.

MM

## Valentine radio requests

**IF any resident has a loved one in the Princess of Wales Hospital at that time and would like a Valentine's day request played for them, contact BLFR Bridgend Hospital Radio on 01656 752588 or send a text message to 07582 680760.**

"We are trying to spread a little love and happiness and hope you can help us in our quest," said a spokeswoman for the station.



Representing Porthcawl Comprehensive School, Jemimah and Adam of year-13, presenting a cheque for £500 to Sister Gwyneth Poacher.



Sister Gwyneth Poacher receives her 80th birthday card from Sandville student, Jemma.

## Attempted burglary in Bridgend

**POLICE in Bridgend may have seen any people acting suspiciously in the area, or who may have any other information which may help us in our investigation."**

**Contact Bridgend CID on 101 or Crimestoppers free and anonymously on 0800 555111 (quote reference 62130034626).**

## Maesteg man is sentenced

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

He said it was well-known what his view was of domestic violence.

"I have no time for it. In just about every case of that type, custody is not only justified, but will follow."

But he said, he had to adopt a different approach in the present case.

Rodger's counsel, Nicholas Gareth Jones, said: "He now accepts that the relationship is over."

He said he had been in custody for six months, and a probation report suggested that a community order was the best way of disposing of the matter and to include an alcohol treatment programme.

"This will happen in the future, and there has been genuine remorse," he said.

**Did you know you can read your GEM online? cowbridge-today.co.uk**

## Cornelly Primary now a Fairtrade School

**AT an all-school assembly on February 4, Bridgend County Fairtrade Group presented Cornelly Primary with a Fairtrade rugby ball and netball.**

This was in recognition of their achievement in becoming a Fairtrade School.

Eileen McIlveen and Pete Thompson from the Group told the children that the balls are made from Fairtrade rubber and that the workers who make them are paid a wage that enables them to support their families.

They thanked the children and staff for their commitment to Fairtrade which helps to lift people out of poverty and enables them to support themselves and their communities.

They said that the efforts of schools like Cornelly Primary are essential in helping to grow the Fairtrade campaign in the County of Bridgend.

Bridgend recently renewed its status as a Fair Trade County



thanks to the efforts of volunteers from the Porthcawl and Bridgend town groups with support from BCBC, Sustainable Wales, the Cooperative store and schools across the bor-

ough. If you would like to help promote Fair Trade contact the Bridgend County Fairtrade Group at Sustainable Wales (01656 783962).

PT

**ABOVE:** Chad Hemming and Emilie Giles, members of Cornelly Primary Fairtrade Steering Group with teacher, Miss Robinson, and Eileen McIlveen



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# BOMB SHELTER REBUILT AT HERITAGE CENTRE

**VOLUNTEERS at the Glamorgan Wartime Heritage Centre have rebuilt a wartime bomb shelter as centre-piece of the Frontline Glamorgan exhibition.**

Barry at War group chairman Ade Pitman explained: "Our Frontline Glamorgan exhibition seeks to educate visitors about life on the Home Front during the Second World War.

"It is a period of history that is not only studied at school, but is still in the memory of many of our older generation, making it an ideal subject for fostering intergenerational links.

"By rebuilding a Second World War Anderson shelter within the centre, visitors can see what it would have been like to sleep in such a cold, damp tin shed during the Nazi air raids.

"My mother lived in Penarth until 1940, when because of these, the family moved to Devon. She still talks of the distinctive sound that the Nazi bombers made when flying over.

"Eventually our Anderson shelter will have an audio sound-

track to help visitors to understand what it was like to be on the front-line in your own home."

Anderson Shelters were designed to accommodate up to six people, and were issued free to all householders who earned less than £250 a year. This is about £12,000 a year today. It was a cheap and relatively secure home shelter.

In Barry, by May 1940, 3,508 shelters had been delivered, of which it was believed that 300 had been constructed.

Ade continued: "Because of their robustness, many Anderson shelters still survive, having been converted into sheds after the war.

"This is what happened to our example, which is why it was in such good condition when it was kindly donated to the centre by Mr and Mrs Robertson of Barry.

"Our volunteers dismantled the building, and after restoration they have rebuilt the shelter exactly how it would have been, including a set of bunk beds.

"We're now looking for those items that would have made sleeping in the shelter a little more pleasant, particularly a 1940s heater.

"We'd also like to hear from anyone who remembers spending their nights in an Anderson Shelter, and from people who still have one of these fascinating Home Front relics in their garden, so we can create a map of them across the region.

"You can record these and any other wartime memories using our equipment at the Heritage Centre."

The Glamorgan

Wartime Heritage Centre located at the Barry Island Tourist Railway, Barry Island station, is open again on Sunday, February 10 from 11am until 3pm. Admission is free.

You can find out more about the Glamorgan Wartime Heritage Centre at the website [www.wartimeglamorgan.co.uk](http://www.wartimeglamorgan.co.uk) or by calling Ade Pitman on 07930 874161.

## Can you give Seren a home?

**SEREN is a one-year-old Lurcher. She is a bright and affectionate young girl, who loves play time!**



A good chase round the field with a tennis ball is usually top of the list, and then a good cuddle with lots of licks.

She is looking for an owner who won't let her get too big for her boots, and she could live with children of around eight years or older.

Seren has been with us for some time, as she was receiving training, but has done so well with her carers that we think she is more than ready to get the home she deserves!

Please call 01656 725219 or pop in to Dog Trust, Court Colman, Pen-y-Fai, Bridgend, CF31 4NG - we have around 70 dogs looking for homes at any one time, of all shapes and sizes!

LINDA FEAGAN

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# Vale Council reviews XFOR performance – and looks to make changes in the future

**THE Vale Council is planning to ask XFOR, the company employed to hand out fixed penalty notices for littering and dog fouling, to make some changes in the way it operates in the Vale.**

The decision came about after a planned six-month review of the company's performance was brought before the cabinet of the Vale Council. XFOR still has a further six months to run of its 12-month trial.

The review confirmed that a number of complaints made by Vale residents in the pages of The GEM were well founded.

The director of visible services and housing advised that XFOR had started the service with a total of four enforcement officers, plus one administrative officer, but during the trial, the company had experienced staff turnover issues and at times had operated with only two staff, plus the administrative officer. This meant that a reduced number of Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) were issued.

The review said that, as a commercial company, XFOR needed to achieve a minimum number of 50 FPNs per week to break even.

This resulted, said the report, in their "initial pri-

## REPORT by PHILIP IRWIN

ority being targeted towards the most prevalent types of litter offences" to hit that target.

The cabinet members were told that assurances had been given by XFOR's senior management that once their officers had reached the minimum number, they were then available to carry out any patrols as directed by the council.

Complaints had been made to The GEM that town centre smokers were being singled out, because they were an easy target.

The review supported this view, saying "...it would be true to say that the need to obtain a minimum quota of FPNs had resulted in a disproportionate focus on high footfall areas such as town centres and shopping areas targeting littering, and more specifically, smoking related litter."

The review said, however, that XFOR had also been supportive of patrolling areas such as playing fields when requested to do so by council officers.

On the subject of discarded cigarette stubs, the review said that this was the most common type of littering, and that a Keep Wales Tidy survey had found such litter on 84 per cent of streets, while dog fouling was only present on 11 per cent.

The review acknowledged, however, that the public did not necessarily see cigarette stubs as the main priority.

It was noted that overall, the reaction of the vast majority of residents and the press to the trial had been very positive. Apart from a number of people who had received a FPN, no formal complaints had been received by the Vale Council, and only one resident had sought a meeting with officers to discuss concerns.

The report went on: "Whilst there had been some allegations of inappropriate or aggressive behaviour by XFOR officers, video footage taken on their personal CCTV body cameras had shown this to be unfounded in most cases."

"The council received a total of 35 written complaints that FPNs were inappropriately issued though only a small number of the complaints had resulted in the FPN being rescinded."

"It was necessary to waive possible court action on medical or health grounds, technical or

administrative issues or, unacceptable behaviour on the part of XFOR officers on 22 occasions in total (up to the end of month 5)".

The report said that XFOR were on target to reach the 12-month target of 3,000 FPNs, having issued around 1,000 in the first four months.

At the moment, 59 per cent of those receiving an FPN have paid up. The review says that at this rate, the council will make a small loss, although this may be covered when those who have not paid are taken to court.

The report says: "The first of the prosecution files had been sent to the council's legal department (70 cases) and the first court hearing took place on December 6, 2012. The offender had been found guilty in their absence and fined £237.40."

The review went on to say that there was therefore no reason why XFOR should not be permitted to complete their trial term, although officers would need to work more closely with them to ensure that any areas of concern that may be raised by residents, including the lack of dog fouling enforcement, were given greater priority.

A similar problem in Blaenau Gwent had led to the council entering into a separate agreement for XFOR to provide an extra two dedicated dog control enforcement officers, paid at £20 per hour (£320 per day in total) to tackle dog-related issues including dog fouling.

However, even with this dedicated resource, XFOR advised that 'Dog fouling FPNs' had only totalled three during the 10 months that this additional service had been in operation.

It was noted that dog fouling offences were notoriously difficult to enforce due to a number of reasons. One of these being the problem of linking the location of the offence to the dog responsible and its owner.

Also, experience had shown that the majority of irresponsible dog owners immediately changed their behaviour when they note the presence of XFOR staff.

The Leader of the Council, Coun Neil Moore, said that having spoken to the local Chief Superintendent, he had been advised that the presence of XFOR was working as a deterrent, particularly as the officers carried small cameras and that people were aware they may be caught on CCTV.

The director of visible services has also written to the managing director of XFOR, asking for a number of changes.

These include increased dog fouling patrols, possibly done by staff in plain clothes, and evening patrols to target littering offences at fast food outlets and public houses.

The council would also like patrols on roads to schools, with children being approached and warned if littering, although this should only take place with agreement with the Council and the headteacher of the school concerned and should be accompanied by an educational awareness raising programme.

The council would also like XFOR to do more in areas of the Vale other than Penarth and Barry.

## SNOW PLEA FOR ELDERLY

**THE snow has gone for the time being; hopefully, we have seen the last of it, but if it should arrive again, would it be possible for Rhose residents to get shovelling and clear the pavements?**

put down salt afterwards. We pedestrians have had a hard time slipping and sometimes losing our footing and falling down.

Have a care for the pensioners who normally do their shopping in the village and were housebound, too scared to leave their homes for fear of a fall.

(Name and address supplied)

Not only that, but also

## PACT meetings

**DINAS POWYS PACT at St Mary's Church Hall, Edith Road, on February 11 at 7pm.**

**GIBBONSDOWN PACT at 28 Coychurch Rise, Barry, on February 12 at 7pm.**

**PETERSTON-SUPER-ELY PACT at Pendoylan School, on February 14 at 7.45pm.**



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## TALES FROM THE VALE

## Flouting the Ravens

This article, in what *The GEM* hopes will be a regular series, is taken from the book 'The Vale of Glamorgan, Scenes and Tales among the Welsh', and the explanatory notes are by Angharad Wynne.

The observations were made in the early 1800s by an anonymous Welshman, who was known to lawyers in Lincoln's Inn, London.

He was described as "a tall, solitary old gentleman who visited his native Vale of Glamorgan every long vacation".

His notebook was published in book form in 1839 after his death, and is still available.

**LOCAL folklore is deeply embedded in landscape. This entry in the notebook tells of a mysterious cave on the Vale moors in which there is hidden a hoard of gold, guarded by ravens...**

These cave guardians are, however, no ordinary ravens. It is said that "nobody could face those ravens, and that there would be, to begin with, no small thundering and growling along the sky before he would get far into the cavern".

A "swaggering Brecknockshire drover" staying at a local inn hears tell of this cave and decides to set out to 'flout the ravens' and find the treasure. After much bravado and swagger, he and a party of local men set out for the Ogov Kigvrain, a Welsh name which translates as Cave of Ravens.

One among the party is Davy, nephew to the notebook's author. He returns after some hours to the inn, somewhat disturbed by the experience, and relates the story of how the cave seekers were hampered by mysterious, thick mist; how flocks of sheep and mountain goats follow behind them. Once,

the silence of the moorland and thick mist was broken by a terrible screech they attribute to "Gwrach y Rhibyn – the Hag of the mountain drizzle", which the men take as a bad omen.

Eventually, the party arrive at Ogov Kigvrain. It is described as being "surrounded with a black stunted brushwood, and some pieces of rock, besides a few old oaks that have struggled to grow there, but have all their branches, after many contortions, tending downwards".

Five cart-ropes are tied together, and the drover secures one end about his waist, in case he would need to be pulled out. He takes a candle and lantern and silently enters the cave. Little by little, the men outside let out the rope, waiting for some catastrophe.

Before they reach the end of the rope, a low growl of thunder is heard in the distance. It comes

nearer and the atmosphere about the cave grows "more dark and appalling". With that, cracks of thunder break overhead and lightning flashes. It is followed by a loud shriek echoing through the cavern, heralding the re-emergence of the drover, "pale, aghast, horror-struck!"

We are not told what the drover sees or experiences in the cave, and it seems that over time, Ogov Kigvrain and its buried treasure have been forgotten. If you know where it is, please let us know.

Are you inspired by the Tales from the Vale? Would you like to take an active part in keeping the heritage of the rural Vale alive? If so, Creative Rural Communities may be able to help.

For further information and to discuss your ideas contact: Helen Blackmore, Creative Rural Communities, on 01446 704828, or Email: hblackmore@valeofglamorgan.org.uk

## Flood relief concert

**ST DONAT'S ancient church was badly affected by the recent floods, which swamped much of the lower part of the Atlantic College campus.**

The gateway to the beach front looked like a sluice gate from Niagara and the swimming pool area was totally inundated. Other parts of the college buildings also suffered from the inrush of water.

The church, dating back to Norman times, was partially flooded and the brand new heating system badly affected.

To raise funds for replacement of the boiler, a special concert – Love to Sing! – is to be held on

Sunday, February 17, in the Glass Room of the Atlantic College Arts Centre, at 3pm, with a sing-along led by the Colhughkelele Band, followed by refreshments.

The second half of the programme will consist of a presentation of Celtic and original music by the Valhalla Music Group of Llantwit Major.

Tickets at £5 are available from Nickleby's Bookshop, on the door, or by calling 01446 792797.

It is hoped that many local residents will support this special event, which will combine the fun of singing favourite popular songs and the pleasure of hearing some fine original music in the Celtic tradition. **Robert Smith**

## Denzel tries, but can't make this dull drama take Flight

**ROBERT Zemeckis has always been a director who knows what the public want, from Who Framed Roger Rabbit? to the Back To The Future trilogy.**

Having championed motion-capture film-making with The Polar Express, Beowulf and A Christmas Carol (only to see friend Steven Spielberg really run with the technology with Tintin), Zemeckis returns to live-action with Flight.

It follows airline pilot Whip Whitaker (Denzel Washington) who manages to land his plane after a mid-air catastrophe and save the lives of those on board.

Hailed a hero, Whitaker's world starts falling in when it is discovered that when the accident occurred, he was drunk in charge of the plane, and as events unfold, Whitaker's heroism is called into question...

From Ray Milland in The Lost Weekend to Nicolas Cage in Leaving Las Vegas, addiction has sparked some fine big screen performances. Denzel Washington's entry in

Flight sees the actor offer a wonderful performance that makes the film soar.

However, the rest of the film is a mish-mash that fails to really take flight (ironically), a dull piece enlivened only by the lead performance.

While Robert Zemeckis' return to live-action has been warmly greeted, the director seems on unsteady ground here, the film visually well shot but poorly-paced and lacking in narrative drive.

There are moments of visual style that are superbly done, in particular the plane crash that is a tense, slowly-built set-piece that feels scarily realistic (nervous fliers look away now) and delivers plenty of spectacle, but from there on the film loses its identity, trying to marry the themes of courtroom drama and study of addiction but with both story strands not connecting particularly well.

The film tries to make points about the nature of heroism, the shady dealings of big business and how addiction can slowly destroy from within without realising it, but pays only lip service to these themes, the overall tone



by **GARETH JAMIESON**

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willing him to do the right thing.

It is a turn that conveys the dark side of dependency delivered with no small amount of quality by the actor.

Around him are strong actors with characters that don't really offer much.

Kelly Reilly impressing in a curtailed role as a fellow addict, Don Cheadle as the lawyer assigned to Whitaker and John Goodman, who scene steals in his two short bursts, as a drug dealer close to Whitaker.

Washington aside though, Flight is far too ponderous and muddled to really hit home; aside from the starkness of the lead performance the rest of the film feels too slow and cumbersome to engage.

**VERDICT** – A weak return to the live-action director's chair from Robert Zemeckis, Flight is a film that is made watchable by Denzel Washington alone, whose performance is powerful and engaging.

Apart from his lead turn there is little else to recommend this funeral-paced film. **Poor.**

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: Leaving Las Vegas (1995), Training Day (2001).

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# Australian pilot died in wartime Spitfire crash

**O**THER readers will be aware of recent GEM letters about wartime Spitfire crashes in the Vale. This month's Pendoylan and Welsh St Donats parish magazine carries the following article.

Seventy years ago this month, on February 6, 1943, a Spitfire crashed in the fields below Pendoylan, killing the 19-year-old Australian pilot, Flying Officer Fleming.

He was buried in the military part of Llantwit Major Cemetery, and the event is commemorated by a plaque recently presented to St Cattwg's



*The crash site.*

church.

Neville Alexander Thomas Fleming was a pilot in 53 Operational Training Squadron. The squadron was formed at Heston in early 1941 to train fighter pilots and moved to Llandow in that summer.

On April 7, 1942, the unit was the first to be based at the new satellite

airfield at Rhoose. On the day of the crash, Fleming was flying aircraft number N3221. He had taken off from Llandow that morning with two other officers on a training flight.

After an hour of formation flying, the leader, Flt Lt Plagis, landed and instructed the remaining two pilots to carry out 'local flying' and land after 90 minutes.

The second pilot landed safely, but Fleming failed to return and no reply was received when he was called up on the radio.

Later, a report was received that a Spitfire had crashed and burned about seven miles north east of the base.

It had broken up in the air, possibly after having touched the ground while low flying, before climbing away and disintegrating.

Neville Fleming was



*Flying Officer Neville Fleming.*

born on April 22, 1923, in Townsville, Queensland, and enlisted in Brisbane on August 17, 1941. The Townsville Daily Bulletin of Wednesday, February 17, 1943, carried the following obituary.

"Mr and Mrs T F Fleming, of Kingaroy, late of Mary Street, West End, Townsville, have been advised that their son, Pilot-Officer Neville Fleming, has been killed in action. The late Pilot-Officer Fleming was only 19 years of age. He attended the Townsville West State School and, after school, joined the Main Roads Commission and joined the RAAF from Brisbane.

"The young airman was a grandson of Mrs A Fardon and a nephew of Mr and Mrs G F Watson, Church Street, West End."

Phil Glanville, Pendoylan.



*The grave of Flying Officer Fleming.*

## Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Branch Manager Phil Powell feels that it's all about service. "Our product is simple. If your double glazing is steamed up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although

that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service the Vale, Bridgend, RCT and Porthcawl areas and Phil is finding that his

approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've

done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Phil a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!



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# Out and About with The GEM

## CS Lewis talk in Penarth

THE author CS Lewis is perhaps best known for his *Narnia* series of children's books, but was also a prolific writer on Christianity.

To mark the 50th

## Church bazaar

LAST week's GEM referred to a bazaar at Crossway Methodist Church to raise funds for the church roof.

The date supplied was Tuesday, February 11, at 2pm.

The GEM has now been asked to point out that the bazaar will take place on Tuesday, February 12, at 2pm.

anniversary of his death, Rev Dr Mark Dimond of All Saints Church, Penarth, is hosting a Lent talk and discussion series based on Lewis's Christian writings.

The series of four talks begins on Wednesday, February 20 at the gallery inside All Saints, with sessions at either 12pm-2pm (bring packed lunch) or 7.30pm-9pm.

Topics are as follows:  
February 20: 'Pain';  
February 27: 'Joy';  
March 6: 'Salvation';  
March 13: 'Love'.

Admission is free, with tea and coffee available. All are welcome. For more information, visit [www.all-saintspenarth.org.uk](http://www.all-saintspenarth.org.uk)

## Valeways guided walks

PLEASE note you may encounter stiles, uneven surfaces, steep section or soft, wet ground on some walks. Walks last for 60-90 minutes, except the coffee shop strollers – an easy walk which is accessible to all.

Today (February 7) at 10.30am, coffee shop strollers, starting at Cold Knap, Barry, outside the Bridge Cafe.

On February 10 at 2pm, coastal path, starting at Penarth cliff top car park.

## Noson Scrabble Cymraeg Ty Cadog

A WELSH-language Scrabble evening will be held at the Windsor Arms, Penarth on Friday, February 8, from 7.30pm.

Croeso i bawb! All welcome! Those who don't yet speak Welsh, will find they can form a surprising number of words from familiar place-names. Llan, pen... and so forth. It's often the absolute beginners who win at this game!

A spokesperson said: "Come along to demonstrate your skill and make new friends. If you happen to have a set of Welsh Scrabble in the house – with those

useful little *ll* and *ch* tiles for the trickier Welsh words – bring it along!"

There is no charge for the night but a collection will be held for the Ty Cadog campaign to establish a ganolfan Gymraeg in the Vale.

For further information, visit [www.tycadog.org](http://www.tycadog.org).

## Vale AM's surgery

JANE HUTT, AM for the Vale, will be holding a surgery tomorrow (Friday, February 8) from 5pm-7pm, in Trinity Church Hall, Trinity Street, Barry, CF62 7EH.

## Councillors' advice

Labour councillors for Castletand Ward, Chris Elmore, Pamela Drake, Les Sword and Karl Kuhnell will be holding their regular monthly advice surgery this Saturday, February 9, at the Drop-In Centre, Castletand Community Centre, Belvedere Crescent, Barry, between 10.30am and 12pm. No appointment necessary.

Contact Coun Chris Elmore on 01446 450 007, or 07967 506 116.

## Support group's next meeting

THE next meeting of the Vale of Glamorgan Fibromyalgia Support Group is on Tuesday, February 12, from 11am to 1pm.

Telephone Gaynor for more details on 01446 733315.

## Steamer talk

THE next meeting of Dinas Powys Local History Society will be held on Tuesday, February 12 in Kynance Hall at 7.30pm, with an illustrated talk by Terry Silvester on the Waverley paddle steamer.

Administration fee £3 for non-members, £1.50 for members, charged at the door. All welcome.

Enquiries to Betty Williams on 02920 513524.

## Spinning talk

THE Glamorgan Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers meets on February 14 in Kynance Hall, Dinas Powys, at 7.30pm, to hear a talk on Spinning wheels by Jill David.

Members £3, visitors £5. For further details, ring Kirsten Gable (01443 650336), e-mail [kirstengable@gmail.com](mailto:kirstengable@gmail.com) or [welshkirsten.onravelry](http://welshkirsten.onravelry).

## WHAT'S ON & WHERE

### Cruse meeting

CRUSE Bereavement Service have started a friendship group meeting once a month at the community room at Barry Fire Station. The next group meeting is on February 15 (1pm-2.30pm).

Meet Cruse volunteers Linda Rees and Angela Williams for a coffee and others who have also suffered bereavement.

### Love to Sing!

ON Sunday, February 17, at 3pm in the glass Room, the Arts Centre, Atlantic College, the Colhughkelele Band and Valhalla Players will perform a concert of popular songs plus

a special programme of Celtic and original folk music.

Tickets £5, to include refreshments, can be purchased from Nickleby's Bookshop; pay at the door or telephone 01446 792797.

All proceeds will be for the St Donat's Church heating fund.

### Church concert

FOLLOWING the very successful choral evening in December, St Mary's Church, Bonvilston, welcomes Barry Male Voice Choir on February 22.

Tickets are priced at £6.50 with all funds raised going towards re-wiring of the church.

The ticket price includes refreshments of wine and cheese after the concert, which starts at 7pm.

Call Rita Price (01446 781688), Viv Hayes (01446 781291)

or Paul Fisher (01446 781686).

### Seafarer's concert

THE Cardiff Committee for Seafarers UK is holding a concert featuring a Royal Marine Band and Pendyrus Male Voice Choir on March 17 in Barry Memorial Hall.

The charity helps all seafarers in need, merchant seamen, fishermen and families.

Contact <http://www.seafarers-uk.org/>

### Homeless awareness

ON the weekend of

## St. Valentine's Day

Thursday 14th February

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# In Business Update

## Could you benefit from some additional income?

**I**T'S easier than you may have thought – with no outlay or inconvenience. Sharon and Beverley are enrolling host families to take in foreign students on a very flexible arrangement – long-term (September to July) or short-term.

If you wish to earn a secondary income for 'just being a family', they would love to hear from you.

Meanwhile, enable your family to be enlightened by the traditions of a different culture while offering a 'home-from-home' base to further a student's education.

Enquiries welcome from Bridgend and neighbouring towns in particular, but all areas considered; please call Sharon on 0777 233 8124 or Bev on 0785 463 8950.

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## Lungworm a threat to dogs

**W**E at Petherton Veterinary Clinics Ltd, would like to draw the attention of dog owners to the threat posed locally by lungworm.

Dogs contract lungworm by eating infected slugs and snails. The symptoms of infection vary from mild coughing and lethargy to seizures and death.

Sadly, we have recently seen fatalities in the area. The good news

is that the disease is preventable by using a simple worming product.

Please contact the practice for more details on 01446 700472.

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate one of our excellent veterinary nurses, Miss Victoria Sully, on qualifying as a registered veterinary nurse.

We are all so proud of her hard work and outstanding achievement, and wish her every success for her future within the profession.

Most wormers are ineffective against lungworm. Only one product is licensed to treat and prevent lungworm.

Please contact our friendly, approachable team at

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**AWARD WINNING ARCHITECTS MOVE TO COWBRIDGE**

(Elio Leo, left, & Nick Renwick, right)

It's not just Waitrose who have moved into Cowbridge. Two architects are combining their operations and have moved into a conversion in the Old Hall. Nick Renwick and Elio Leo who first worked in an office together in the 1980's and then went their separate ways have now decided to pool their resources and work together again.

Nick with his conservation and planning experience will be concentrating on special sites throughout the Vale, Wales and West of England; Elio will bring his Italian flare to bear on these and also more commercial projects. Both have won awards for projects in the past so expect some interesting buildings in both new and old materials to the highest design and energy standards.

For a wealth of both local & international experience in innovative and traditional design contact:

**Nick Renwick: 07713 212438 Erenwick@totalise.co.uk**  
**Elio Leo: 07866 313243 Elioaleo@gmail.com**

Old Hall, Studio 6, (Chartered Architects),  
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For the coming months, Immaculate Cleaning Services are offering an introductory, lower rate for new customers, and a 10 per cent discount on spring cleans (of five hours and over) for all customers up until the end of March.

Please call 07999 257421, or email [immaculatecleaning@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:immaculatecleaning@hotmail.co.uk) for a chat about your requirements, and to book a clean – and start your new year with an Immaculate home!

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Marie Curie  
Cancer Care



## NEW FREE WILL WRITING SERVICE

**M**ARIE CURIE Cancer Care has teamed up with solicitors across Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan, to provide a free Will writing service for three months.

Seven firms are working in partnership with Marie Curie to offer people aged 55 years or over, the opportunity of having a simple basic Will written free.

Gifts left in people's Wills are the single largest source of voluntary funding for Marie Curie. These gifts are vital to

ensure that Marie Curie Nurses can continue to provide free care to people with terminal cancer and other illnesses in their own homes and in its Cardiff and Vale hospice.

Phae Comber-Jones, Legacy Advisor for Marie Curie, said: "Marie Curie Cancer Care has chosen to pay a discounted legal fee for the writing of simple Wills, and whilst there is no obligation to leave a gift to Marie Curie Cancer Care in your Will, our hope is that people will choose to do so."

The following law firms are taking part:

Vale Solicitors (Barry and Llantwit Major); Passmores Solicitors (Barry and Cardiff); Alan Simons and Co (Penarth); Lucas Law (Penarth); Leo Abse & Cohen (Cardiff); Morgans Select

Limited (Cardiff); and Access Legal from Shoosmiths (telephone service).

The scheme is running until April 8, and appointments must be booked by that date.



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## £403,000 GRANTS FOR COMMUNITY FACILITIES

**THE 2nd/4th Barry Scout Group and Castleland Community Association in the Vale of Glamorgan are set to benefit from more than £403,000 of funding from the Welsh Government's community facilities and activities programme (CFAP).**

The 2nd/4th Barry

Scout Group will receive £294,298 to rebuild the Witchill community hall, while Castleland Community Association will receive £108,946 for improvements to the local Centre.

The community facilities and activities programme offers grants to local projects

that improve buildings for use by the local community and help make Welsh communities a better place to live.

Under this latest funding round, 44 organisations across Wales will share over £7.6 million of Welsh Government funding for projects aimed at regenerating the local area.

**SOCIAL**

Carl Sargeant said: "These grants are not simply about improving buildings."

"Local clubs and centres can be the hub of the community where people, young and old, get together and enjoy social activities. Whether a small or large amount, CFAP funding has a beneficial impact upon

Welsh communities and the day to day lives of local people.

**PLEASED**

"That's why I'm pleased to see so many local groups and volunteers taking matters into their own hands and applying for grants to make their centre a better place for the whole community to enjoy."

**PROJECTS**

The programme was launched in 2002 and to date has funded 875 projects totalling over £100 million.

The latest bidding round will fund 44 projects totalling £7,632,816.97 over two financial years.

## Ty Hafan Hospice gets £100,000 boost, thanks to top chefs!

**TOP chefs from some of the most exclusive restaurants in Wales, London and beyond, impressed some of the most discerning foodies in the country at a fundraising event in aid of Ty Hafan.**

The third annual 'Chefs' Night Out' took place on Saturday, January 26 at the Parc Hotel by Thistle in Cardiff and raised more than £100,000 for the charity.

Cooks who have worked alongside the likes of Marco Pierre White and Keith Floyd produced exquisite food for 140 guests, including rugby pundit Jonathan Davies.

The event's organiser, Welsh businessman David Loosemore, has a very personal reason for wanting to support Ty Hafan, as his six-year-old daughter Isabella has been having short-break stays at the hospice.

David said: "Knowing that Bella is being looked after by a remarkable team is extremely important to us. She really loves it there and has made some lovely friends."

"To see the way the care team love and care for her is amazing. Holding this fantastic event is a way to show my appreciation."

"I really can't thank Ty Hafan enough for what they do."

Speaking before the event, chef Roger Jones, who runs the Harrow Little Bedwyn restaurant in Wiltshire said: "A kitchen represents the heart of every home and at Ty Hafan, the atmosphere is a warm and welcoming break away from the families' own homes," he said.

"It is therefore with great pleasure that I will again be cooking at the fundraising dinner."

A number of other esteemed chefs and rising stars – including two Michelin star chef Michael Wignall from Latymer at Pennyhill Park – cooked for the lucky guests. Tears were shed during the evening, when family support practitioner Hayley Mills read out the words of 18-year-old Amy Claire Davies, who expressed the love and support she receives at the hospice.

Amy, from Swansea, has an incurable immune system illness and was unfortunately too ill to attend the event as planned.

"I hope I did Amy proud," said Hayley. "It is incredibly humbling to think so many people are supportive of Ty Hafan."

After a champagne reception, a four-course meal and raffle draw, guests had the opportunity to bid for the chef they wanted to engage for a dinner party, either in their own home or at



Left to right: James Sommerin (The Crown at Whitebrook) with his daughter, and Stephen Terry, from The Hardwick in Abergavenny.

RIGHT: Sian Wyn Owen from Cowbridge, who cooks at the River Cafe with David Kelman of Ellenborough Park.



an alternative venue.

Michelin star chef Juan Galvez from the Marbella Club in Spain received the highest bid of £9,500 for 10 guests to enjoy a dining experience at his hotel, recently voted the Best Hotel in Europe.

All of the chefs' donated their time, food and wine to support Ty Hafan in providing specialist palliative care services for children, young people and their families.

As it deals with an

increasing number of children and young people with a complex range of needs, Ty Hafan needs that financial support more than ever.

**Chefs at the event:** Hywel Jones; James Sommerin; Duncan Barham; Roger Jones;

Stephen Terry; Richard Davies; David Kelman; Sian Rees; Sian Wyn Owen; Gwyn Myring and Tom Furlong; Juan Galvez; Paul Croasdale; Mark Jordan; and Michael Wignall.

For more information, visit [www.tyhafan.org](http://www.tyhafan.org)

## Vale primary schools could be stripped of their 'feeder' status

**A FIERCE debate is likely after the Vale Council started a consultation exercise that could end with the dropping of the present system of primary schools which act as 'feeders' for certain secondary schools.**

Under the present system, parents can influence which secondary school their child goes to by making sure the child is in a 'feeder' school.

For example, a parent who lives outside the catchment area for C o w b r i d g e Comprehensive can place their child in one of the school's feeder schools, and at the moment be fairly confident that the child will have their secondary education in Cowbridge.

The feeder schools for Cowbridge are: Llanfarian, Llanfair, Llangan, Llansannor C-in-W, Pendoylan C-in-W, Peterston-super-Ely C-in-W, St Bride's Major C-in-W, St

by **PHILIP IRWIN**

David's Colwinston C-in-W, St Nicholas C-in-W, and Y Bont Faen.

In the eastern Vale, the feeder primary schools for Stanwell Comprehensive, for example, are Albert, Evenlode, Sully and Victoria.

The same principle applies in Llantwit Major and Barry.

The proposals, which will not affect children currently in year-6, mean that parents would have to send their child to the secondary school in their catchment area – regardless of which primary school the child had attended.

A consultation letter distributed to parents says that, in the event of a school being oversubscribed, then catchment area is already used as a way of prioritising places at the moment, and the change will simply reinforce this.

The letter also says that the present feeder

school system "causes imbalances within primary and secondary schools that puts added pressures on primary schools with links to certain secondary schools – and conversely has a detrimental effect on other primary schools".

It also makes the point that the majority of local authorities do not use a feeder school system, but rely on catchment area.

However, parents in Llanfarian have already started a Facebook page where members are expressing strong reservations about losing their feeder status for Cowbridge.

Jill Davies, the chair of governors in Llanfarian Primary School, told THE GEM that the governors were meeting to discuss the new school admissions policy.

Also, a meeting of parents took place last night, after THE GEM went to press, at Llanfair School, where the same issue was on the agenda.

## 'It's the House of Pantomime!'

**SIR JOHN MAJOR, the former Prime Minister, has nailed it: "The House of Commons was excellent training for pantomime" he says, praising ex-Conservative MP Ann Widdecombe, who has played in panto.**

For years, I have been searching for a simile, and there it is: for 'House of Commons', read 'House of Pantomime' ... perfect!

Thank you, Sir John, a real googly (his favourite sport being cricket).

GEM reader Christopher Short, Barry



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A free sight test may give every child the ability to see clearly, learn effectively and fulfill their career aspirations. Up to one million children in the UK currently have an undetected vision problem. (Statistics provided by the Eyecare Trust and based on DCSP 2009 School Census 0-12 year olds).

Research shows that around 20 per cent of school-aged children have an undiagnosed vision problem – that's one in five children. (Professor David Thomson, City University, London).

Over 90 per cent of children visit a dentist regularly, while only 53 per cent of children have ever had an eye examination. (Johnson & Johnson, Vision Care Survey 2009).

A total of 84 per cent of parents agree that improved vision would have a positive impact on their child's performance at school. (Johnson & Johnson Vision Care Survey 2009).

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# Children's Choices

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These price reductions relate to nearly 25 per cent off most of the range – a very attractive saving.

During the latter part of 2012, the Barry Music Shop took on the dealership of Line6 guitar amplification and pro-audio. Since then,

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# Children's Choices

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[www.funfoundationsdaynursery.co.uk](http://www.funfoundationsdaynursery.co.uk)



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## Council to fast-track Welsh medium primary school

**THE popularity of Welsh medium education in the Vale has prompted the council to unveil proposals to expand a Barry school ahead of schedule.**

The Vale Council will submit a request to the Welsh Government for funds to be released to enable the completion of Ysgol Gymraeg Nant Talwg, Barry, in one phase. The school was opened with a nursery and reception class in September 2011. The

original plan was to expand the school in separate phases, depending on the rate of growth in the number of pupils.

However, the council now plans to accelerate the school's completion, as demand for places at the school continues to increase.

The council will request the release of Welsh Government capital funding from the 21st Century Schools Investment Programme.

Coun Chris Elmore, the cabinet member of children's services said: "The popularity of Ysgol

Gymraeg Nant Talwg since its launch in September 2011, has shown there continues to be a growing demand for Welsh medium education.

"Given the rapid growth of the school, rather than extend it in two separate phases as originally planned, we are advocating a fast-track approach to complete the school in one phase, by the financial year 2015, which will deliver a more cost effective solution.

"This decision demonstrates our commitment

to investing in education and delivering a high standard of Welsh medium education in the Vale."

The proposal recommends the construction of the new school building behind the existing building. The access point for the school would remain the same.

If the proposal gets the go-ahead by the Welsh Government, Ysgol Gymraeg Nant Talwg would be completed by 2015 and have a capacity of 210 pupils.



Photographed with Alun Cairns MP are: Mrs Marlene Wheeldon, Mrs Elizabeth Driver, Mrs Peta James, Mrs Mary Randle, Mrs Elizabeth Gabb, Mrs Jeannie Parkhouse, Mrs Daphne Townsend.

## Marie Curie fundraisers get tour of Westminster

**VALE MP Alun Cairns** recently welcomed fundraisers for Marie Curie Cancer Care to the Houses of Parliament.

The group of Llantwit Major and western Vale residents met the MP at the summer fair last year and were keen to take up his invitation to visit Westminster.

This year, Marie Curie nurses, doctors and other healthcare professionals will care for more than 2,250 people with a terminal illness, as well as provide support for their families across Wales. Mr Cairns said: "I was delighted to be able to welcome Mrs Wheeldon and the team of fantastic Marie Curie fundrais-

ers from Llantwit, Rhooose, Llanmaes, Barry and St Athan to the Palace of Westminster.

"I was able to take the group on a tour of the House of Commons and recounted snippets of history and facts to the knowledgeable group, before having the opportunity to lead them out on to the Terrace alongside the Thames.

"Marie Curie Cancer Care is dedicated to the care of people with terminal cancer and other illnesses. With more

than 130 Marie Curie nurses working in communities across Wales, they provide terrific support and friendship to many patients and their families during very emotional and fraught times.

"It is a service that is valued by each and everyone that comes into contact with their care."

To find out more about the care and support that Marie Curie Cancer Care offers or to help fundraise for the charity, visit [www.mariecurie.org.uk](http://www.mariecurie.org.uk)

## Penlllyn Bridge

**PENLLYN Bridge Club** results for January:

**January 3:** 15 pairs – 1st, Marian East and Barbara Easterbrook 60.42 per cent; 2nd, Helen and Mike Ruttle 55.42; 3rd, Diana Lewis and Myrtle Hansard 55.

**January 10:** 22 pairs – 1st Norma Barber and Moyra Cuthill 59.77 per cent; 2nd, Rita Williams and Gill Harding 59.55; 3rd, Sally Kennedy and Annie Jones 57.95.

**January 17:** 20 pairs – 1st, Allan Evans and Ann Richards 61.62 per cent; 2nd, Mary Wallis

and Glenda Roberts 59.09; 3rd, Christine Impey and Julia Evans 56.57.

**January 24:** 17 pairs – 1st Colin and Judith Nunn 62.5 per cent; 2nd Colin Easterbrook and Viv Roberts 59.29; 3rd, Helen and Mike Ruttle 58.57.

**January 31:** Robert Brown Cup – 21 Pairs – 1st, Marian East and Barbara Easterbrook 58.33 per cent; 2nd, Mary Wallis and Glenda Roberts 56.11; 3rd, David and Marian Stephenson 55.83.

CN

## Andy's hope at Cheltenham

**ON AND OFF THE TURF** with Brian Lee

**ANDY QUICK**, of the Greendown Inn, Drope, has high hopes that his grey gelding *My Fella* will be good enough to race at Cheltenham Racecourse, the spiritual home of National Hunt racing.

Meanwhile, *My Fella's* next target is the men's open race at the North Hereford Hunt Steeplechases at Whitwick Manor on February 23. All going well, after that the men's open race at the Duke of Beaufort Hunt at Didmarton is on the cards.

Mr Quick, who knew nothing about

training horses before he bought *My Fella*, has done remarkably well to train a winner in such a short time and as Aberthyn trainer Tim Vaughan told him last year when *My Fella* won for the first time at Bonvilston: "You don't know what you have achieved. People take years to train a winner and you have done it in your first year."

Mr Quick said: "Nick Williams, who won on him last weekend at the Tiverton, thinks the North Hereford course will suit him, so that is why we will be going there for the horse's next race."

**COMMUNITY NEWS**

**LLANBETHERY & LLANCARFAN**

Your community correspondents are  
**Sam & Patsie Smith on**  
**(01446) 751448**

### Alan Taylor

**I AM** very sad to report that Alan Taylor passed away last Monday, after a brave fight.

Alan was involved in everything to do with Llancarfan and gave an enormous amount of time and effort into the village he loved; he will be sorely missed by all his many friends.

Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to Sue and the family. I will publish more details in due course.



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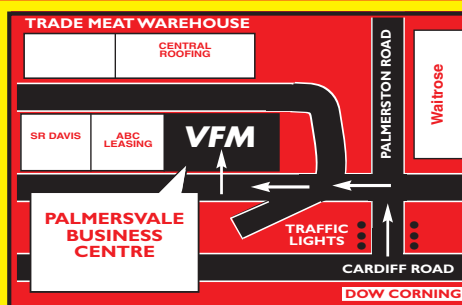


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# Vale building excellence awards 2013

**THE tenth Vale of Glamorgan Council Building Control Group Building Excellence awards were held at the Mount Sorrel Hotel Barry on January 25.**

The evening was attended by Coun Lis Burnett, the cabinet member for regeneration and innovation; Coun Fred Johnson, cabinet member for planning and transportation, and the Mayor of the Vale Coun Eric Hacker.

The Building Control team were present on the evening and were joined by the event sponsors, Mr. Raymond Court-Hampton, manager of the Mount Sorrel Hotel, Jan Irving of The Glamorgan GEM, Nina and Rob Chivers of Nina Estate Agents and representatives of ACD Skip Hire.

The evening was hosted by Marcus Goldsworthy, operational manager for development and building control at the Vale Council who emphasised: "The nominations in every category were of the very highest quality, and congratulations go to all the winners who will now have the chance to compete against the winners from other councils in south Wales."

"The South Wales Building Excellence awards are due to be held at the Vale Hotel and Spa Resort, Hensol on April 26, and will be hosted by Jamie Owen, the BBC news presenter."

"I am also hopeful that some of these schemes will go forward to the Building Excellence Award national finals, which will be held in London in November 2013, where they will be up against nominations from not just Wales, but England too."

"The awards have shown the quality of work that is being undertaken throughout the Vale and we are proud to be rewarding and encouraging quality in the construction industry."

"Our thanks must go out to the sponsors, who have enabled the event to be firmly placed in the annual diary," he added.

In every category there were 'commended', 'highly commended' and 'award winners' who will go forward to the South Wales event. They were:

Category 1 - Extension/alteration to a dwelling: Anthony Woodward Property Developments for the alteration and extension to Llandough House, Llanblethian; Category 2 - New Single Dwellings: Gwyn G. Jones & Sons for the new dwelling at Hillcrest, (The Slips), Cowbridge; Category 3 - Housing 2 - 10 dwellings: Waterstone Homes for the development at Westra, Dinas Powys; Category 4 - Conversion Category: JCW Construction Ltd, for the conversion and new builds at Llantwit Major Social Club; Category 5 - Community Healthcare and Public Buildings: Interserve Construction Ltd., for the New Medical Centre at Llandough Hospital, Llandough, Penarth.

Two of the following 'Highly Commended' schemes will also have an opportunity to enter the South Wales Awards and these are Bullock Construction for the new social housing at The Herberts, St. Mary Church, and Leekes for the apartment conversion at Benjamin Hall, Hensol.

The Vale Council wish all of the above schemes good luck in progressing to the national award finals.



**ABOVE:**  
Coun Lis Burnett presenting the category 5 winner's award to Interserve Construction.



**ABOVE:**  
ACD Recycling and Skip Hire making the presentation to category 1 winner NKG Construction.



**ABOVE:**  
ACD Recycling and Skip Hire being thanked by Rob Thomas, director of development services at the Vale Council, for contributing to the awards.



**ABOVE:**  
Category 5 - Highly Commended. Coun Lis Burnett congratulating ISG Construction for Pendoylan School building



**ABOVE:**  
Nina Chivers of Nina Estate Agents presenting the category 2 single dwelling award to Gwyn G Jones & Son.



**LEFT:**  
Raymond Court-Hampton, the new general manager of the Mount Sorrel Hotel, Barry, presenting the category 3 award to Waterstone Homes.



**ABOVE:** Nina Chivers is thanked for part-sponsoring the awards by Coun Lis Burnett.



**ABOVE:**  
Jan Irving of the GEM newspaper presenting the category 4 winner to Coun Eric Hacker on behalf of JCW Construction Ltd.

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 Visible Services and Housing  
 Civic Offices Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU or  
**Newydd Housing Association**  
 121 Broad Street, Barry CF62 7AL

**BUTTRILLS WALK, BARRY (2)**

H4U reference 203169  
 Suitable for a family meeting bedroom tax requirement - no pets  
 • Three-bedroom flats  
 • Ground and first floor  
 • Central heating  
 • Double glazing  
 Rent £66.02 per week including water charges

**CAREW CLOSE, BARRY**

H4U Reference 946389  
 Suitable for a family  
 • Two-bedroom house  
 • Gas central heating  
 • Double-glazing  
 • Enclosed rear garden  
 • Parking  
 Rent £75.38 per week

**CLOS LLAWHADEN, BARRY**

H4U Reference 890839  
 Suitable for a family  
 • Two-bedroom house  
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 • Double-glazing  
 • Enclosed rear garden  
 • Parking  
 Rent £80.01 per week including service charges

**COURTNEY ROAD, BARRY**

H4U reference 1089729  
 Suitable for a single person or couple with one child  
 • Two-bedroom house  
 • Central heating  
 • Double glazing  
 • Gardens  
 Rent £74.65 per week

**DOCK VIEW ROAD, BARRY**

H4U reference 1089805  
 Pref given to applicants with a requirement for a three-bed property or maximum occupancy  
 • Three-bedroom house  
 • Central heating  
 • Double glazing  
 • Utility room/gardens  
 Rent £132.69 per week

**HERITAGE DRIVE, BARRY**

H4U Reference 967385  
 Suitable for a single person or couple  
 • One-bedroom flat  
 • Second floor (no lift)  
 • Gas central heating  
 • Double-glazing  
 • Garden and parking  
 Rent £73.71 per week including service charges

**LLANDINAM ROAD, BARRY**

H4U reference 215083  
 Suitable for a family meeting bedroom tax requirement  
 • One-bedroom flat  
 • First floor  
 • Central heating  
 • Double glazing  
 • Communal gardens  
 Rent £80.82 pw including water & sewerage chgs

**MASEFIELD ROAD, PENARTH**

H4U reference 241185  
 Suitable for a single person or couple over 55 - no pets  
 • One-bedroom flat  
 • First floor  
 • Central heating  
 • Double glazing  
 • Gardens and alarm  
 Rent £87.79 pw including water & alarm charges

**OAK COURT, PENARTH**

H4U reference 1011672  
 Suit for a single person or couple over 60 (55 with medical need)  
 • One-bedroom flat  
 • Adapted bath  
 • Second floor (lift)  
 • Economy 7 heating  
 • Double glazing  
 Rent £102.90 per week including service charge

**OAK COURT, PENARTH**

H4U reference 1099598  
 Suit for a single person or couple over 60 (55 with medical need)  
 • Studio flat (ground floor)  
 • Walk-in shower  
 • Second floor (lift)  
 • Economy 7 heating  
 • Double glazing  
 Rent £91.90 per week including service charge

**PONTALUN CLOSE, BARRY**

H4U reference 221628  
 Suitable for a single person or couple over 40 - no pets  
 • One-bedroom flat  
 • First floor  
 • Central heating  
 • Double glazing  
 • Communal gardens  
 Rent £80.82 pw including water & sewerage chgs

**SLADEWOOD HOUSE, BARRY**

H4U reference 223694  
 Suitable for a family meeting bedroom tax requirement - no pets  
 • Two-bedroom flat  
 • Lower ground floor  
 • Central heating  
 • Double glazing  
 • Communal gardens  
 Rent £80.24 pw including water & sewerage chgs

**ST JULIANS CLOSE, BARRY**

H4U reference 225143  
 Suitable for a family meeting bedroom tax requirement - no pets  
 • Three-bedroom house  
 • Central heating  
 • Double glazing  
 • Gardens  
 Rent £97.12 per week including water charges

**TREHARNE ROAD, BARRY**

H4U reference 226252  
 Suitable for a family meeting bedroom tax requirement - no pets  
 • Two-bedroom flat  
 • Ground floor (steps)  
 • Central heating  
 • Double glazing  
 • Communal gardens  
 Rent £76.37 pw including water & sewerage chgs

**TY FFYNNON, BARRY**

H4U reference 226654  
 Suitable for a family meeting bedroom tax requirement - no pets  
 • Two-bedroom flat  
 • Lower ground floor  
 • Central heating  
 • Double glazing  
 • Communal gardens  
 Rent £80.53 pw including water & sewerage chgs

**WILLIAMS CRESCENT, BARRY**

H4U Reference 228377  
 Suitable for a family meeting bedroom tax requirement - no pets  
 • Two-bedroom flat  
 • Second floor  
 • Central heating  
 • Double-glazing  
 Rent £80.82 per week including water charges

**MAIN STREET, BARRY**

### Newydd Housing Association announces the new development of nine flats in Main Street, Barry

These high quality, energy efficient properties will be available to rent during April and May 2013. The development will consist of:

- 2x one bedroom flats,
- 5x two bedroom flats and
- 2x two bedroom flats designated for applicants in need of a ground floor property for mobility reasons.

Expressions of interest are invited from all current applicants of HOMES4U.

Priority will be given to existing social housing tenants wishing to downsize who have an excellent tenancy history.

Interest will be considered from applicants with local work and/or life connections. References will be required where possible, and interviews will take place if necessary.

Newydd Housing Association is committed to providing a safe and sustainable environment and will be asking for references and carrying out interviews with prospective tenants to achieve the full potential for this development.

**Important information for existing and new council tenants**

From April 2013 Housing Benefit Rules are changing for 'working age' tenants who live in Council and Housing Association properties. If you are of pension age this change will not affect you.

Deductions will be made from Housing Benefit claim where a claimant is living in a property that is classed as too large for them. There will be a 14% deduction for one extra bedroom and a 25% deduction for two or more bedrooms.

To calculate room needs for a client, one bedroom is allowed for each of the following:

- every adult couple;
- any other adult aged over 16;
- any two children of the same sex up to 16;
- any two children regardless of sex aged under 10; or
- any other child.

Foster children are not included in the calculation.

**Examples**

**A single person (of working age) living in a two-bedroom property**

The assessment of room need would be one bedroom, so a 14% deduction from their Housing Benefit would apply.

**A couple (of working age) living in a three-bedroom property**

The assessment of room need would be one bedroom, so a 25% deduction from their Housing Benefit would apply.

**A single parent or couple with a son aged 8 and a daughter aged 6, living in a three-bedroom property**

The assessment of room need would be two bedrooms, so there would be a 14% deduction from their Housing Benefit.

**A single parent or couple with two daughters, aged 12 and 6, and a son aged 4, living in a three-bedroom property**

The assessment of room need would be three bedrooms, so no deduction would apply.

You must be a HOMES4U member to apply for any of these homes. When bidding for more than one property you will be asked to state your order of preference. All descriptions and other details are given in good faith and are believed to be correct but any potential tenant should satisfy themselves as to their correctness. Newydd is a charitable housing association.





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**NEW**

**LOMBARD STREET, BARRY**  
 Mid terraced, three bedrooms, through living room, fitted kitchen. Ground floor: Modern bathroom. Lane access. upvc DG. Gas CH via combi. No chain.  
**£109,950**

**NEW**

**LAKIN DRIVE, BARRY**  
 Modern semi detached. Two double bedrooms, living room, kitchen/breakfast. Detached garage. Enclosed garden. Driveway. No chain. Vacant possession.  
**£144,950**

**NEW**

**GLADSTONE COURT, BARRY**  
 Two bedroomed apartment, ideally placed in town centre. Communal entrance stairs to 2nd floor, entrance hallway. Living room with upvc French door to balcony. Fitted kitchen, replacement bathroom. Gas CH via combi. upvc DG throughout.  
**£89,950**

**NEW**

**NORTH WALK, BARRY**  
 Extended semi detached. Two reception rooms, kitchen, ground floor bathroom. Lean to sun lounge. ladder to attic/hobby. Driveway/garage. No chain.  
**£109,950**

**NEW**

**PHYLLIS STREET, BARRY**  
 Stunning mid terraced. Through living room, well presented. Kitchen/diner, off road parking from rear garden. upvc DG. Gas CH via combi. No chain.  
**£109,950**

**NEW**

**DAVID STREET, BARRY**  
 Two double bedroomed, mid terraced, two reception rooms. Ground floor bathroom. Garden backing onto woodland. upvc DG. Gas CH via combi. No chain.  
**£92,950**

**NEW**

**LANGLAND ROAD, BARRY**  
 Three bedrooms. Semi detached. Through living room. Utility area/cloakroom. Spacious plot. Room to extend (subject to planning). No chain.  
**£129,950**

**NEW**

**THE GROVE, BARRY**  
 Spacious living accommodation. Edwardian mid terraced. Original features throughout. Living/dining room, fitted kitchen, sitting room. Two bathrooms.  
**£227,500**

**NEW PRICE**

**MELLYN Y GORS, BARRY**  
 Modern detached. Three double bedrooms. Master ensuite. Sitting room (converted garage). Living room, dining room, replacement kitchen, utility & wc cloakroom. Large rear garden/ample parking.  
**£197,000**

**NEW PRICE**

**COLLARD CRESCENT, BARRY**  
 Three bedrooms, semi detached. Living room, dining room, wc cloakroom. Driveway/garage. upvc DG. Gas CH via combi. Ideal family home.  
**£144,950**

**NEW PRICE**

**GLYN Y GOG, BARRY**  
 Well presented. Corner positioned. Four bedrooms, modern detached. Two separate reception rooms. Two ensuite and family bathroom. Private enclosed garden. Garage/driveway. Viewing essential.  
**£239,950**

**NO CHAIN**

**MAIN STREET, BARRY**  
 End of terraced. Three bedrooms. Through living/dining room. Ground floor bathroom. In need of modernisation. Gas CH, partially upvc DG. Investment property.  
**£69,950**

**SPACIOUS PLOT**

**WEST WALK, BARRY**  
 Spacious plot ideal for further extending (subject to usual planning). Three bedrooms. Attic hobby room. Living room, ground floor bathroom. Semi detached. Driveway/garage. No chain. Enclosed garden.  
**£99,950**

**3 RECEPTION ROOMS**

**CHANNEL CLOSE, BARRY**  
 Modern detached. Living room, dining room, sitting room, fitted kitchen. Shower room wc. Three bedrooms, family bathroom. Shower room wc. garage/enclosed garden.  
**£170,000**

**ENCLOSED GARDEN**

**FONMON PARK ROAD, BARRY**  
 Modern detached. wc cloakroom, living room, conservatory, fitted kitchen, dining room, master with ensuite. Level enclosed rear garden. Driveway garage, side access. upvc DG. Gas CH. Viewing essential.  
**£164,950**

**GARAGE**

**STATION STREET, BARRY**  
 Three bedroomed. Mid terraced traditional. Through living room. Kitchen/diner. Spacious family bathroom. upvc DG. Gas CH. Town centre location.  
**£121,500**

**LARGE GARDEN**

**NORDALE RISE, BARRY**  
 Two bedroomed, modern mid link. Living room. 2012 fitted kitchen/diner. upvc DG, Gas CH. Larger than average rear garden. Designated parking.  
**£94,950**

**IMMAC. CONDITION**

**BROAD CLOSE, BARRY**  
 Maintenance free ground floor. Living room, modern fitted kitchen, integrated appliances. Two double bedrooms. Sun terrace overlooking communal gardens. Garage. Designated parking. No chain.  
**£112,000**

**SEA VIEWS**

**WESTWARD RISE, BARRY**  
 In need of some modernisation. Three bedrooms. Semi detached. Two reception rooms. Garage/driveway. Sea views from rear. Enclosed laid to lawn garden. Walks to beaches. No chain.  
**£185,000**

**GARAGE**

**GIBBONSDOWN CLOSE, BARRY**  
 Three bedrooms. Semi detached. Corner position. Living room, dining room, fitted kitchen. Garage/parking. Cul de sac position. No Chain.  
**£129,950**

**3 REC ROOMS**

**WYNDHAM STREET, BARRY**  
 Spacious living throughout. Mid terraced traditional. Three bedrooms. Three reception rooms. Enclosed courtyard. Lane access. upvc DG. Gas CH via combi. Situated near shops, schools.  
**£126,000**

**AMID TOWN CENTRE**

**BASSETT STREET, BARRY**  
 End of terrace. Three bedrooms. 21ft living room, dining room. First floor bathroom. Enclosed patio garden. upvc DG. Gas CH via combi. Town centre location.  
**£104,950**

**TRUE BUNGALOW**

**PONTYPRIDD ROAD, BARRY**  
 Traditional semi detached bay fronted bungalow. Three bedrooms. Reception room. Sun lounge. Level enclosed rear garden. Driveway to front.  
**£189,950**

**EASY WALK TO PORTHERI**

**BELL STREET, BARRY**  
 Two bedroomed. Traditional mid terraced. Living/dining room. Kitchen. wc cloakroom. First floor family bathroom. Enclosed rear garden. Minutes walk to Porthorci.  
**£108,950**

**4 BED 3 REC**

**BROAD STREET, BARRY**  
 Bay fronted. Four bedrooms. Mid terraced traditional. Three reception rooms. Channel views from first floor. West End location. Enclosed garden/garage. Ideal family home.  
**£147,950**

**4 BEDS ATTIC ENSUITE**

**OLD MILL ROAD, BARRY**  
 Modern detached. Three bedrooms. wc. cloakroom. Attic conversion. Through living room. Kitchen with integrated appliances. Enclosed rear garden. Side access. upvc DG. Gas CH via combi.  
**£149,950**

**OPEN TO OFFERS**

**GELYNY CIER, BARRY**  
 Three bedrooms. Semi detached. Living room, kitchen/breakfast. Private enclosed garden. Driveway to front. No chain. Viewing highly recommended.  
**£149,950 - Open to Offers**

**FOUR BEDROOMS**

**HARBOUR ROAD, BARRY**  
 Mid terrace, bay fronted traditional. Three reception rooms. Four bedrooms. Family bathroom. Original features. Sea views.  
**£189,950**

**4 BEDS GARAGE**

**HARBOUR ROAD, BARRY**  
 End of terrace bay fronted traditional. Through living room. Dining room, fitted kitchen, four bedrooms. Family bathroom. Garage. Sea views from garden.  
**£199,950**

**OPEN TO OFFERS**

**DOCK VIEW ROAD, BARRY**  
 Mid terraced traditional. Living room, 2nd reception used as bedroom - ensuite. Dining room, kitchen, three bedrooms, shower room. upvc DG. Gas CH via replaced combi.  
**£117,950 - Open to Offers**

**BALCONY VIEWS**

**YEW TREE COURT, BARRY**  
 Third floor apartment. Two bedrooms. balcony views overlooking Romilly Park. Fitted kitchen, spacious living room. Designated parking.  
**£114,950**

**DETACHED GARAGE**

**HEOL CORSWIGEN, BARRY**  
 Modern detached. Three bedrooms. wc. cloakroom, living room, dining room, fitted kitchen/breakfast. Master with ensuite. Private enclosed garden. Raised sun deck terrace. Detached garage.  
**£184,950**

**SEA VIEWS**

**ROMILLY PARK ROAD, BARRY**  
 1930's bay fronted. Semi detached. Retaining many original features. Stained glass windows, black flooring. Three bedrooms. Sea & Park views. Two reception rooms. wc cloakroom. Kitchen/dining room.  
**£304,950**

**6 BEDS 4 REC**

**CLOS YR FULFRAN, BARRY**  
 Stunning detached dwelling, far reaching sea views. Six bedrooms, two ensembles and family bathroom. Living room, dining room, sun lounge, sitting room, integral garage. Enclosed rear garden, patio area. Laid to lawn, side access.  
**£349,950**

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## Birthdays

## Lost & Found

## PENARTH COMPUTER CLUB NEWS UPDATE

### Playing the waiting game

**I**T used to be that holiday snaps took a couple of days to process after you got home. If they were poor pictures, so be it - patience was the order of the day.

If you are asking the system to be doing something else at the same time, you will be diverting some of the capacity and reducing the speed that has already been assumed in the calculation.

If you are installing a new programme, you might have to select components for installation as you go along, and the progress calculation has to be adjusted to suit. Surely any indication is better than none at all.

More and more people are using external hard drives to give them more storage capacity. Having become familiar with the quick writing to their internal hard drive, they wonder why they have to wait longer to copy to an external drive.

Again, the boffins are being helpful by allowing the external drive to save energy by not spinning if it is not being used. Then, when needed, it has to 'spin up' to operating speed again before starting work.

This will happen only when the drive has been idle long enough for it to power down automatically. Any delay is simply the price paid to contribute towards saving the planet and reduce your energy bill.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday, February 12 at All Saints Lesser Hall, Victoria Square, Penarth, (7.30pm). Brains trust rescheduled from the cancelled meeting to this one.

See penarthcomputerclub.co.uk

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For further information and an application form contact the Council by visiting [www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](http://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk) or telephone Contact OneVale on 01446 700111 between 8am-6pm.

Closing Date: 21 February 2013.

Subject to \* CRB Disclosure.

[www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](http://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk)

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### Happy Birthday

**GARETH JAMIESON**

on 8th February

Best wishes from all your friends at The GEM

**HAVE A GREAT DAY!**



## Family Notices

### WILLIAMS

Peacefully on January 28 at Llandough Hospital after a short illness, Philemon Bassett (Phil), aged 86 years of Radnor Green, Barry. Dearly loved husband of Barbara and brother of Norman and the late Vincent, loved brother-in-law to Valerie, Dorothy and Mary. Cherished uncle to all his nephews and nieces.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son funeral home, Gladstone Road, Barry, until the funeral on Friday February 8. Service at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road East, Barry, where family and friends please meet 4.30pm. Family flowers only, if desired, donations may be handed to the funeral director after the funeral for British Lung Foundation Wales.

### Sherwood, Joan

Died peacefully on January 29th. Beloved wife of the late Alf Sherwood. Mother of Jane Sherwood and the late Robert Sherwood.

Funeral: Church service 12.15pm Monday February 11th at the Holy Cross church in Cowbridge, then Coychurch Crematorium at 1.15pm.

### BAGSTAFF

#### Terry

Suddenly but peacefully on February 1 at Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, Terry of Llantwit Major. Dearly loved husband of Sally and loving father of Stephanie.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Ffnonn. Funeral Monday February 11, service and cremation 1.45pm at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend. Family flowers only may be sent to the Funeral Home, donations in lieu, if desired, to British Heart Foundation c/o J James, 11 Ffnonn Road, Rhosce, Vale of Glamorgan CF62 3DZ.

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

### LICENSING ACT 2003

To whom it may concern.

We, The Parish of our Lady and St Illtyd do hereby give notice that we have applied to the Licensing Authority (Vale of Glamorgan Council) for the grant of our Premises Licence at Ham Lane, Llantwit Major, known as Our Lady and St Illtyd's Catholic Church.

Any person wishing to make representations in respect of this application may do so in writing to the Licensing Team, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU not later than 28 days from and including the date of this notice (as below). Representations received after this date will not be considered.

A copy of this application can be viewed at the Licensing Authority's address during normal office hours.

It is an offence to knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with this application - the maximum fine on summary conviction being £5,000.

Signed: F. E. Neizer, on behalf of the applicant.

Dated: 30-1-2013.

## Coastguards in 'bomb on the beach' drama

PENARTH and Barry coastguards responded to a dramatic 999 call to help Chepstow colleagues, after a metal object on a beach turned out to be an unexploded artillery shell.

A fisherman had found a "lump of metal" at Beachley and called in Chepstow Coastguard, who said it was harmless, but then spotted another object on the beach - a Second World War seven-inch artillery shell, which had been uncovered by the tide.

### Destroyed

It was three inches in diameter and about 14 inches in length. A spokesman for the Chepstow coastguards reported that the artillery shell was later safely destroyed by a Royal Navy bomb disposal team, and that they had been assisted at the scene by colleagues from Penarth and Barry Coastguard.

## Niamh benefit

LOCAL fundraisers for Barry girl, Niamh Tarran, who has cerebral palsy, have organised a Neil Diamond tribute on Saturday, February 16, at The Dockers, Vere Street, Cadroxton.

Tickets are £5. Contact Emma on 07523 63717 for more information.

## The GEM is looking for a First Class Typist

For shift work (11am-7pm, Mondays & Tuesdays and holiday cover) You must be able to type a minimum of 80wpm whilst maintaining accuracy, and an excellent spelling ability, as spellcheck is not relied upon. Familiarity with Apple Mac is an advantage but training will be given on the operating system. A good knowledge of our distribution area is required.

12 month contract at minimum wage, based in Cowbridge.

Initial interview will be a competency test. Please email your relevant qualifications and experience to: [caroline@tindlenews.co.uk](mailto:caroline@tindlenews.co.uk) (No telephone enquiries please. We can only respond to those candidates we wish to interview.)



# Planting new Cee'd for futuristic estates!

**ADDED emotion, character, improved proportions and stance – that's how Peter Schreyer, Kia's chief design officer, describes the new Cee'd Sportswagon in comparison to its predecessor.**

As I set eyes on it, I tend to agree.

Traditionally estate cars have been bland and boring, drivers really only buying them because they needed the extra space, rather than necessarily wanting to drive one.

I know couples where the husband has the fun car – the coupe – and the wife has the estate, under sufferance. Thankfully, such pur-

chases are now more subjective the more attractive they have become. The curvaceous Cee'd Sportswagon is right at the forefront of this revolution.

Mr Schreyer and his team should be satisfied with a job well done.

Head on, its sloping bonnet complete with sophisticated chrome-edged grille, sets the standard for this futuristically styled estate.

Kia has even done away with the dull 'estate' term preferring instead 'Sportswagon' shortened to SW – far more trendy and upbeat.

Of course, this puts it straight in Peugeot 308SW territory but in terms of classy looks, the Kia wins.

You want to get in and drive this car. But estates are all about

load carrying, so we must consider the boot first.

It's capacious and has been made as easy to use as possible; the boot floor flush with the tailgate opening as you can see in the video at [testdrives.biz](http://testdrives.biz).

The rear seats fold to ensure a completely flat load deck. It makes light work of the week's shopping and on another journey, the month's supply of logs.

But there's more to the Sportswagon. I drove the old Cee'd and I was therefore surprised when I first stepped inside this new model.

Where its predecessor lacked refinement and quality, its replacement oozes with them. Seriously, it's as if VW has breathed on certain parts, most notably the

## MOTORING with Tim Saunders



The Kia Cee'd Sportswagon

hard and supportive driving seat and its position – perfect for the dreaded motorway commute.

You can imagine that this will withstand much wear and tear. The doors shut with a satisfying 'thunk' and the environment in which driver and pas-

sengers find themselves is indeed very comfortable and of good quality. Its dashboard favours the driver, which is a nice touch.

The SW is let down, though, by the use of seemingly cheap looking and feeling black plastics for the indicator and windscreen wiper

stalks either side of the steering wheel.

Then on opening the driver's window, the trim proceeds to rattle as I drive along. The engine stop/start leaves much to be desired for me, too as there's no consistency as to when it kicks in.

Iron out these minor criticisms and this could be a faultless vehicle.

Just two diesel engines are available, a 1.4 or a 1.6 but both return well over 60mpg. The 1.6 model EcoDynamics model tested comes with a smooth six-speed gearbox and steering mounted cruise control, stereo and telephone functions.

It's a responsive vehicle, making for an enjoyable drive and noticeably surprises the driver of a Volvo V70 as I overtake.

Equipment includes adjustable and automatically folding heated wing mirrors, air conditioning, all round electric windows, projection headlights, daytime running lights and even a cooled glovebox with controls inside.

"The Kia Cee'd Sportswagon is a medium-sized estate that's designed to be practical, stylish and good value for money," writes Parkers, the car experts.

"Further bolstering the Sportswagon's load-carrying capabilities are roof rails, myriad storage points and a braked towing weight of 1,500kg.

"The original Kia Cee'd SW, launched in 2007, proved to be a spacious and smartly-styled small estate which didn't cost much to run. The only down-

sides were a dull drive and some questionable interior trim."

Welcome to a new breed of exciting estate where there is plenty of useful storage space and good levels of comfort. The only thing I don't understand is its name – but perhaps it relates to vision... as Focus does for Ford.

2012 onwards, new price range: £16,895 - £24,795;

Kia Cee'd Sportswagon 1.6 CRDi 4 5d;

Economy: 64mpg;

0-60mph: 10.8secs;

Top speed: 120mph;

Power: 126bhp;

Fuel capacity: 53

litres, over 600 to a

tank.

Watch the video at [www.testdrives.biz](http://www.testdrives.biz).



## Pupil critic praises the village hall panto!



LEFT Robin Hood meets a Welsh dragon!

FOLLOWING their success at the Llangan and St Mary Hill Village Hall, the committee members' production of this year's panto, *Robin Hood and Snow White*, took to the stage once more – but this time in a school hall.

The children of Llangan Primary School were treated to

a new year panto performance, and what better feedback than from the children themselves?

Here is the note that the crew received from a pupil soon after the show:

"I thought it was really good. I really enjoyed it when Samantha sang her H-A-P-P-Y song, it was amazing.

"I also thought that Ashley was funny playing Dopey. Maud was brilliant at being Sleepy.

"I particularly liked her when she was sleeping standing up and sleep-walking, it was so funny.

"All round, it was undecidable, that is how good it was." – from Sacha in year-5.

Thank you very much for these kind words, Sacha, and (hopefully) we will see you again next year!

KL

## 'I am a mole and I live in a hole' ... quite a few, actually!



GEM reader Geoffrey Harding of Llantwit Major, took this striking photograph on February 2 near his home. "I've called it 'the great mole flood,'" he said. "The site is several acres of low-lying ground near Aberthaw Cement Works. I have lived in this area for more than 40 years and have never seen anything quite like it, although I pass this land most days."

## Vale AM attends a moving exhibition on Vale artist at the School of Optometry

A MOVING photographic exhibition of Vale artist Sol Jorgensen's work, to show her life with her son, Seth, has been opened by Jane Hutt AM at the School of Optometry at Cardiff University.

Mencap Cymru is promoting the exhibition, which is also supported by Disability Arts Cymru, raising awareness of the needs and interests of disabled young people and their carers.

The Vale AM commented: "It is a truly thought-provoking exhibition and a privilege to look inside Sol and Seth's world."



Jane Hutt AM, Sol and Seth Jorgensen, and Mencap representatives.



# 13 Unlucky for some but not at Toyota World Bridgend



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New Auris Icon 1.33 VVT-15 door manual. Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (V100km): Urban 42.8 (6.6), Extra Urban 60.1 (4.7), Combined 52.3 (5.4). CO2 Emissions 125g/km.



# Llantwit Major under-15s push Llandaff hard

WITH a pitch which resembled a swamp passed as just playable Llantwit Major under-15s and Llandaff played a superb match which defied the conditions underfoot.

The home side went in to the game still looking for their first win of the season, with a squad decimated by injuries and players unavailable, and they came very close to getting it.

The opening exchanges showed the massive improvements that the team has made in their work in the contact area with openside flanker Toby Walker particularly disruptive to Llandaff.

The defensive line was well marshalled by No10 Iestyn Jones who tackled superbly all game. Eventually the pressure that Llandaff had applied resulted in a converted try for their flying winger who defied the boot-sucking swamp to run 45 meters to score a superb solo effort.

From a scrum No9 Steffen Godwin fed the ball out to Iestyn Jones who chipped over the rush defence. Although the ball was well covered by the full back, Llantwit captain Joe Bunt ripped the ball from him and crashed over from short range for a well deserved try.

The conversion just crept in despite the strong crosswind and the half time score of 7-7 meant that the game was very finely balance.

The second half saw Llantwit playing down the slope and they were keen to use the advantage.

Joe Bunt picked up and a jinking run saw him clear with only one defender to beat a couple of metres out. However, the defender did his job and just managed to dislodge the ball as Bunt attempted to ground it.

More pressure led to a defensive 5 meter scrum led to a penalty in front of the posts, which, after some discussion, Iestyn Jones stepped up to give Llantwit a well deserved 10-7 lead with less than five minutes remaining.

Llandaff went on the attack and despite the best efforts of the home side to hold them out they scored two more tries as the game came to its end. The final score of 10-19 didn't do the home team justice but despite being disappointed they were able to take heart from the improved performance in all areas.

There are a few spaces available for experienced players in who are in school year 10. Please contact Tim Jones at trocartim@btinternet.com if you are interested in playing rugby.

TJ

## Llanharry close gap in Cowbridge darts league

ON Tuesday, January 29, the league leaders Edmondres 'B' beat the Cross Inn 8-1, but Llanharry still managed to reduce their lead by beating the Old Post Ladies 9-0.

In a surprise result, third place Edmondres 'A' were beaten 5-4 by the Highwayman Inn.

Present league standings: Edmondres 'B' (61 points), Llanharry (58), Edmondres 'A' (50), Hare and Hounds (45), White Lion (40), Farmers Arms & Carne Arms (35), Cross Inn (31), Old Post Ladies (25) & Highwayman Inn (25).

On February 12, the league programme continues when the Edmondres 'A' host the Farmers Arms, the Old Post Ladies host the Highwayman Inn, the Carne Arms host the Edmondres 'B', the Hare & Hounds host the Cross Inn and Llanharry host the White Lion. All matches start at 8.30pm and spectators are always welcome.

For further information and any enquires please e-mail Paul at cowbridgedarts@google mail.com; up-to-date information on upcoming matches, league results and league table can be found on the website: www.darts.apsn.co.uk.

PT

## Under-12s' lose out to old rivals in Blues Cup

Both teams know each other's game well, but it was Llanishen whose game favoured the conditions. Playing with the slope and the wind, Cowbridge failed to take advantage in the first half.

The first half was strewn with handling and individual errors from both teams. Llanishen went into the break 3-0 up, having shown their determination to win the game by taking the three points - this is the first time the boys have played against a team prepared to take the penalty kick rather than tap and go.

To Cowbridge's credit they did try to play their usual free-flowing passing game but the conditions were against them. After the break, Llanishen played the territorial game very well, and Cowbridge struggled to get out of their own 22.

After being camped on their own line for five minutes, Cowbridge conceded the game's first try.

An attacking scrum allowed the Llanishen backs to simply pass the ball along the line for their outside centre to

get round the Cowbridge defence to score in the corner, making it 8-0 to Llanishen.

Straight from the restart, Llanishen put Cowbridge back into their 22 with a huge clearing kick. Cowbridge started to chase the game and inevitably mistakes crept in.

The forwards were tackling hard and fighting for the ball at the breakdown, but in twos and threes, whereas the Llanishen pack played as a unit of eight. The Cowbridge backs tried to relieve the pressure with some clearing kicks, only to be placed straight back in the corner.

With 10 minutes to go, another five-metre attacking scrum from Llanishen led to the game's decisive try.

Quick ball from the scrum put the Llanishen inside centre through on a crash ball - only a great defensive tackle from the Cowbridge 7, Ben Jones, stopped a certain try, but with quick ball from the breakdown Llanishen strolled over to make the score 15-0.

Cowbridge did not let their heads drop, and in the last play of the game R Williams powered over for a consolation try; I Williams converted.

Final score: Llanishen 15 - Cowbridge 7.

Many congratulations to the Llanishen boys, and we wish them well in the quarter final against St Peters.

GJ

## Charlotte is Llantwit Major's karate kid

A LLANTWIT MAJOR school pupil, Charlotte York, recently took two gold medals in the girls' Shotokan Kata and under-16 girls open kata.

A spokeswoman said: "Competition was extremely tough. The first category that she entered was Shotokan, and all went well in the first heat until an uncharacteristic wobble while landing after a jump in the penultimate move on her opening Kata.

"Even so, Charlotte was strong enough with the rest of her sequence

to get through to the next round.

"After that, she didn't look back, composed her nerves and ultimately went on to win the gold medal in.

"With her confidence brimming, she went into the under-16 girls open kata category, where lots of different styles of karate are used.

"She convincingly got through the first round, and again didn't look back as she absolutely nailed her next kata, which scored her the most points and yet another gold medal. Congratulations Charlotte!"

## Athletic play this weekend

BRIDGEND Athletic RFC have rearranged their home Championship fixture with Whitland for this coming Saturday, February 9, kick off 1pm.

Spectators are also invited to watch the following internationals on the big screen in the newly refurbished function room at the Ewenny Road clubhouse.

AB

## Major beaten by the weather!

ONCE again the weather defeated Llantwit Major AFC on Saturday, as their away match at Bridgend Street was postponed due to a waterlogged pitch in Cardiff.

Now into February with more than half their fixtures still to be played, the Major remain fourth in the table and could go second if they win their games in hand.

The next fixture is at home on February 9 to fifth placed Llanern, kick off at 2pm at the Windmill Lane.

PL

## Bowls club seeks fixtures

DUE to unforeseen circumstances, Barry Athletic Bowls Club have fixture availability on four Saturdays in the coming season.

Any private greens or municipal clubs would be welcome; available dates are April 27 (home at Barry Island); May 4 (away); May 18 (away) and July 6 (home or away).

Contact club secretary Clive Cottrell on 01446 410708.

RP

## Double success at Tiverton for Ogmores' Nick

OGMORE'S Nick Williams bagged a double at the rearranged Tiverton Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechases at Chiple Park on Saturday.

Williams, younger brother of National Hunt jockey Christian, won the Intermediate on Andy Quick's grey My Fella and the second division of the maiden on George Reid, owned by the Shinton family and trained by Steve Bevan at Bridgend.

My Fella, owned and trained by Andy Quick, won easily despite trying to run out after jumping the last fence.

Welsh champion rider John Mathias took the first division of the maiden on the French-bred Robin Will.

### TIM'S IN FORM

Saved By John, an eight-year-old bay gelding trained at Abergin by Tim Vaughan and ridden by Richard Johnson, made all the running at Wincanton last Thursday to win the Elite Racing Club Novices Handicap Chase by the shortest distance possible - a nose.

Strongly challenged in the closing stages by the favourite Bury

Parade, Saved By John, a 4-1 chance, held on bravely to land the spoils.

Earlier in the week at Lingfield, Oscar's Den, also partnered by Richard Johnson, got home by three parts of a length from the odds-on favourite Guest Of Honour ridden by the legendary A P McCoy.

BRIAN LEE

## Llantwit Major darts table

LLANTWIT MAJOR & district darts league tables:

'A' League Table  
Kings Head 'A1' 115  
Wenvoe Arms 111  
Call to Arms 110  
Shoes Peterston 109  
Kings Cup 94  
Golden Cross 88  
Fox & Hounds 83  
Rugby Club 75  
Blacksmith Arms 'A1' 74  
Lamb & Flag 70  
Four Bells 68  
Blacksmith Arms 'A2' 67  
Kings Head 'A2' 46.  
'C' League Table  
Lamb & Flag 'C1' 105  
Call to Arms 88  
Kings Cup 86  
Lamb & Flag 'C2' 81  
Kings Head 'C1' 72  
Golf Club 69  
Kings Head 'C2' 48  
Rugby Club 18.

DC

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# GEM sport

## TOO MUCH BLUDGEON, NOT ENOUGH RAPIER?

*...Wales lose their crown, despite their heroic but belated fight-back*



ABOVE: Welsh dejection following another Irish try turns to joy, as Leigh Halfpenny goes over to add to second half tries by Alex Cuthbert and substitute Craig Mitchell. Halfpenny's two conversions and earlier penalty brought Wales to within eight points of Ireland's total, but it wasn't quite enough to claw back the 20-point lead Wales had allowed their opponents to build up in the first half.



Pictures courtesy of Huw Evans Agency



RIGHT: Drafted-in second row, Andrew Coombes, gave a stand-out display on his international debut for Wales.



SO NEAR...No 8 Toby Faletau just fails to ground the ball at the upright for a try that could have led to a remarkable second half turn-around and a win for Wales.

**A**LAS, the crown slipped sideways off the reigning Six Nations ruler's head, as a rampant Ireland destroyed all hope of Wales retaining their Grand Slam title, at a stroke, in 43 minutes of hopelessly one-sided action at Cardiff's Millennium Stadium on Saturday.

No matter that the men in green then spent the next 37 minutes in embattled defence – unable to add a single point to their score – as a torpid Wales team was suddenly energised by reinforcements from the bench, finally shrugged off their inertia and an abysmal, error-strewn first half, and mounted a commendable, but ultimately futile, fight-back.

For the damage had already been done by the ruthlessly-efficient Irish, who did what the Welsh camp had earlier in the week vowed their own players would do, and came rushing out of the blocks from the start – rattling up a commanding

### BACK PAGE COMMENT by Don John

23-3 lead at half time and threatening even worse to come after the change-over.

Two emphatic tries by left wing flier Simon Zebo and prop Cian Healy, converted by the assured No 10, Jonathan Sexton, who also landed three penalties – with just a single penalty kick by Wales' fullback Leigh Halfpenny in reply – had silenced the capacity 73,230 crowd.

They must have feared they were about to see the clock turned back to a time, not so very long ago (that they hoped had gone for ever) when landslide Welsh defeats were the norm rather than the exception.

The gloom in the stadium increased when just three minutes into the second half, man-of-the-match, peerless Brian O'Driscoll, dived through a gap in the willing Welsh defence for his side's third try (bringing his personal international tally to 46).

The simple conversion was popped over with aplomb by Sexton for a seemingly unsailable 30-3 lead – and the disbelieving home crowd now waited apprehensively for the floodgates to open and swamp sorry Wales, who seemed to have no answer to simple, direct rugby played with pace and intensity.

It didn't happen, for suddenly the sleepers awoke, rubbed their eyes, remembered they too were there to play rugby with a Six Nations championship at stake – and amazingly, the tables were turned in an almost complete reversal of the first half, as the heroic fight-back yielded three tries and the crowd found their voice again.

In the end, though, with just five minutes of play remaining, the task proved beyond them, and it was the weary but victorious Irish who left the field with hopes of a Triple Crown and even a Grand Slam still intact.

The Welsh camp were left to ruefully lick their wounds, and reflect on a display that in the first half had ranged from mediocre to truly abysmal, only partly redeemed by a spirited second half showing that had shown frustrating glimpses of this young team's true worth, and had certainly contributed to an enthralling contest to watch.

Notwithstanding the fact that half a dozen leading players were absent through injury, the Welsh camp will surely be asking themselves some hard questions this week as to what went wrong: Specifically, how could such a talented young team have fallen so far below the high standards that had brought them wide acclaim in the 2011 Rugby World Cup and won a Grand Slam only last year?

Worryingly, Wales are now entrenched in a confidence-sapping cycle of defeat and have just days to find the answer before they have to face their next big test – in Paris on Saturday and restore badly-battered morale – if they are to avoid a ninth loss in a row.

Interim head coach Robert Howley and the other assistant coaches, of course, will be acutely aware that Wales' rapid decline has happened on their watch, in the absence of head coach Warren Gatland – whose attention is fully engaged elsewhere, preparing for the British & Irish Lions' tour to Australia.

He was present, sober-faced, in the stands on Saturday to keep a watching brief on potential recruits for his tour party.

One wonders just what he was thinking as he watched his usual charges floundering in disarray against a superior, but not totally

convincing Ireland side, whose own try line was breached three times in the second half, lost two men to the 'sin bin' – and came perilously near to surrendering a massive 30-point lead at the end.

For Howley, though, the aftermath of the 30-22 defeat following such a sub-standard performance, inevitably brings the media spotlight squarely on his team selection and tactics – both of which have been called into question in a rugby-mad nation where everyone is a selector!

Certainly, on recent evidence, it appears that the Welsh camp may have been 'found out' in terms of a one-dimensional emphasis on size and physicality, rather than a more subtle, varied approach, particularly in midfield, as O'Driscoll and the sharp Irish backline vividly demonstrated on Saturday.

Obviously, it is rather late in the day for drastic changes in the heat of a rapidly-unfolding Six Nations tournament, and the selection options are limited.

However, Howley & Co will be forced to take some very hard decisions in the light of the harsh lessons learned against the Irish, if the rot is to be stopped in Paris and championship hopes revived. Not least is the age-old maxim that form should come before reputation.

Italy have shown the way in their remarkable and, by all accounts, fully-deserved 23-18 victory over pre-tournament favourites France.

It currently puts the Azzurri in third place in the table... and they will be now be targeting the hapless Scots (hammered 38-18 by England on Saturday) and Wales as their next big scalps, with the grim prospect of these two fighting to avoid the wooden spoon come tournament's end. Perish the thought!

What greater incentive could there be for Wales to cast off the shackles, regain self-belief, and this time come out with all guns blazing against a shell-shocked French side that will be under huge pressure of their own to perform, not least from a notoriously volatile home crowd.

### 'Sickened by the rugby violence'

**MUCH** of Don John's article in the recent edition of the GEM encapsulates my views on the practices accepted in rugby in general.

The violent events in the recent autumn Internationals sickened me and, after over 70 years as a player and ardent fan, has made me reluctant to continue to follow the game.

The attack on Biggar whilst trapped in a ruck, which resulted in his being unable to continue playing, was such that if it had occurred off the field, it could have resulted in prosecution for assault.

I was outraged when Jonathan Davies commented that "it was a fair tackle".

In addition, I am amazed that the practice of forcibly 'clearing out' is allowed to the extent that it is.

Why is it that players attempting to get possession of the ball are taken out, often violently, by the opposition, who have no intention of playing the ball?

The scrum is a shambles and a lottery for penalties. If the views of

Brian Moore, on the hazards to the players in the current situation, where the referees allow all sorts of illegalities, continue to be ignored then we will see some major court cases with rugby unions sued for the deaths or serious injuries of their players.

In addition, the practice of 'feeding the scrums' has altered the whole pattern of the game.

Huge front rows are now essential as the chances of winning the ball 'against the head' are negligible, and if your side's scrum is under pressure, then avoid playing in your own half, conceding scrums and giving away penalties.

This results in the kicking 'tennis matches' we have to endure.

Finally, I have had much pleasure from playing the game and from the social interactions gained whilst supporting my local club.

Whereas in the past I would have hoped that my grandsons would take up the game at the highest level, I now hope that they will not.

John Evans

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